[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed with the general discussion of the budget.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, we meet to discuss the budget under extraordinary circumstances. The intervention of the floods between the preparation of the budget and its presentation has upset all the calculations on which the budget was evidently prepared. All those expectations have been completely shattered by a little freak of nature. The extent of the damage caused by the floods is so great that the whole basis of our calculations has to be altered to meet the requirements of the new situation. The difficulty has been increased by our inability to measure correctly the nature and extent of the demands upon the resources of the State during the course of the succeeding year. An accurate forecast of the probable income as well as the probable expenditure has become almost impossible. Even under normal conditions, there were sufficient reasons to think that the revenue would be insufficient to meet the expenditure. But, in the altered circumstances, the deficit is sure to be much more than what the Financial Secretary anticipates. It is unnecessary to speculate upon the probable revenue of the State during the next year. Our task at such a crisis like this—a crisis unprecedented in the history of this country—necessarily consists in finding out ways and means to economise expenditure so as to release funds for the purpose of relieving distress and of preventing famine. It seems to me that the barest necessities of the administration alone need be provided for in the budget and that all available funds should be utilised for the benefit of the people in distress. It is with a view to achieve this object and to afford means of relief to the poor that I venture to make some suggestions for the consideration of the House. The loss on account of the flood of houses and cattle and of agricultural implements, seed grains and other requisites of cultivation must have been immense. The Kanni crop in almost the whole of North and Central Travancore must have been completely wiped out. Unless the cultivators are given *timely* help, it may not be possible for them to prepare for the Makaram cultivation at the proper time. The condition of the poor in the meantime is sure to be extremely miserable.

It is a source of gratification for us to find that the Government are anxious to relieve distress and to do what they can for the work of relief and of reconstruction in the affected areas. When the Government is as anxious as the people themselves to meet this unusual calamity, it seems to me that the way to make retrenchments in expenditure is easy. I would, under these circumstances, in the first place, suggest that the whole House should go into committee before the formal voting of grants, and decide, after *informal* discussion, as to what economies

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

could be effected in expenditure in the several departments of Government. If such a method is adopted, all unnecessary discussions could be avoided and retrenchments wherever possible could be made. The budget could also be formally passed after all the necessary reductions are thus agreed upon. I venture to think that such a course is necessary when the situation is so grave and unusual.

The reductions in expenditure amounting to about Rs. 35,000 announced by the Financial Secretary yesterday are hardly sufficient in the present crisis. There are several other items of expenditure in the budget which could, without the least inconvenience, be cut down. It is tolerably certain that the expected revenue under Excise, Forest, and Railways will not be realised. The first relief that will have to be afforded to the land-owners must be by way of remissions of tax on account of failure of crops in the affected localities. The *poramboke* cases and the heavy imposition of taxes on new registries, irrespective of the quality of the soil or of the trees, are causing great distress to the people. It will be a very serious hardship if the attention of the Government is not directed to the redress of grievances in the matter of taxes and new assessments. The collection of land revenue will be greatly reduced during the next year. I hope the Government will also be forced to recognise that the additional allotments proposed for agricultural loans and new works are wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the affected localities.

It is therefore highly necessary that every item of expenditure which is not absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the several departments should be cut down if we are not to be faced with a huge deficit and confronted by fresh taxation later on. An additional expenditure of more than Rs. 2½ lakhs is proposed to be incurred in respect of the Education Department alone. In the face of a national disaster like this, there seems to be absolutely no necessity to incur any additional expenditure at least during the course of one year. All experimental works in connection with the Industries, Agriculture and other departments may also be held up for one year. There is provision for an additional expenditure of nearly a lakh of rupees in respect of the Army and under this head is included an item of expenditure which should have been included in the P. W. D. budget and made votable. I hope it will be possible for Government to postpone the execution of military works costing Rs. 21,800. In the case of several buildings also, the allotments could be cut short and the completion of the works might be postponed.

It seems to me that a *substantial* reduction of expenditure could be effected by suspending the normal increments for one year in the pay of those officers who draw Rs. 100 and above and who are therefore above want. The services alone consume about Rs. 75 lakhs and a temporary withholding of increase of pay, while it cannot be a matter of serious hardship in the case of those who get more than Rs. 100, is sure to release a substantial amount for the noble purpose of famine relief.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

While it is necessary to make reductions as far as we can in the expenditure for the departments, it is also equally necessary to make more liberal allotments for relief work if that work is to be really effective. I doubt very much whether even the enhanced allotment made for agricultural loans is quite sufficient. In any case, these loans could not afford relief to the poor who have been rendered homeless and destitute. This is particularly so in the case of the depressed classes who have no security to offer for the loans. Till the cultivation season for the Makaram crop, these people will have absolutely no employment; and unless the land-owners themselves are able to engage them at that time, their condition will be miserable in the extreme.

The Department of Public Works could do a great deal to relieve the distress of the poor by giving them employment during this time of famine. Public works are recognised to be a source of famine relief and we have sometimes resorted to this method in times of distress. But the grant of three lakhs of rupees made for this purpose is wholly insufficient. A large amount will be required for repairs to bridges, culverts and roads and the allotment will hardly meet the demand of the northern parts of the country for communications and drainage canals.

The long-standing complaint that the department has not yet been able to pay sufficient attention to works in respect of roads and canals in North Travancore is still unredressed; and I take this opportunity to refer to this matter in some detail in order to show how well-founded this complaint is. Owing to the heavy recurring expenditure on account of maintenance and other works, it has also become increasingly difficult to make suitable provision in the budget to meet the demands of the northern parts of the country. We do not grudge the expense already incurred by the State on account of works in other parts of the country. The Government are even now contemplating the possibility of spending as much as Rs. 13½ lakhs for water-supply in Trivandrum. The complaint on behalf of North Travancore is only for a fair share in the attention of the department.

Though the Department of Public Works was formed in 1860, a beginning was made in the matter of public works only about the year 1863. During the years 1862-72, very good progress was made in road construction, but all these roads except the ten mile road from Changanachery to Kottayam were in South Travancore and in Peermade.

In the *Administration Report* for the year 1047 (1871-72), the Chief Engineer observed that "by the time the roads now in progress or proposed and planned are finished we shall have about 1,000 miles opened for cart traffic, and this may fairly be looked for in the course of another eighteen months or two years." By this time nearly Rs. 15 lakhs had been spent for original road works alone, and bridges like the Kuzhittura bridge costing nearly two lakhs of rupees had also been constructed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

And yet excepting the unfinished road up to Kottayam absolutely no attention had been paid to North Travancore during this period.

For the first half of the next ten years after 1047 (1871-72), the expenditure was confined mainly to original works already under construction and on the repairs to and the maintenance of the completed roads. It was during this period (1871-1881) that the Punalur bridge, the tunnels and other works were taken up and completed. In 1051 the main road from Kottayam to the Cochin frontier was taken up and it was completed in 1053 (1877-78). The total length of this road is 155 miles, of which 65 miles appear to be north of Kottayam. This was the first instalment of roads for the northern division. Though simultaneously with the construction of this road, other roads were also laid down and completed about the year 1055, very few roads were opened in North Travancore. It was also during this period that many roads were constructed in Trivandrum. But excepting the Main Central Road and a few other small roads, comparatively little was done for North Travancore in the shape of public works even during this period. We find the following remarks by the Chief Engineer in the *Administration Report* of the year 1052:

"The designs of a large bridge over the Kottayam river have been submitted and sanction obtained for its commencement next year, and with these works completed, the reproach of the neglected state (in the shape of public works) of North Travancore will be removed."

But we find that, up to the end of 1051, Rs. 86½ lakhs had been spent by the department without any substantial portion of the amount being spent at all in North Travancore. The maintenance and repairs alone of the existing works had by this time risen to Rs. 1,30,000. As works progressed, the cost of maintenance increased proportionately and began to tell increasingly year after year on the margin left for works of original construction.

On account of this growing expenditure for maintenance and other works in other parts of the State, the Government continued to feel the difficulty of paying sufficient attention to communications in the northern taluks; and though small allotments were meted out, the northern parts of the country were allowed to remain neglected. In 1079, the length of cart roads maintained was 2,218 miles, the length of village roads being 808 miles and of traces 376 miles; and the expenditure on maintenance had risen to Rs. 3,18,128. The increasing demands of the Capital for buildings and other works and of the High Ranges for communications consumed a great portion of the annual allotment; after meeting the cost of the Kodayar Irrigation Works for which large allotments, ultimately amounting to more than Rs. 82 lakhs had to be made from 1070 onwards.

With the inauguration of the Popular Assembly in 1080, the people of the northern taluks got an opportunity of representing their grievances to the Government. We find from the reports that year after

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

year the members representing the northern taluks have been complaining about want of communications. The Dewan referred to this in the second session of the Assembly and said:

"New lines of communication in North and Central Travancore and the improvement of the existing lines are under consideration. As a beginning, the construction of a road from Tiruvalla to Pulikkil has already been sanctioned".

Again, in the third session of the Assembly, he said:

"A revised programme of the roads to the newly constructed in North and Central Travancore has been recently received from the Chief Engineer and is under consideration."

During this session, Mr. Mammen Mappillai and several other members suggested a definite scheme of work and a committee of enquiry. In 1084, in his Address to the Assembly, the Dewan said:

"I mentioned to the Assembly last session that His Highness' Government were aware that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in the South; but I added that in the then state of the public finances and with the Kodayar works on hand it was not possible to spend much on new works anywhere. The time has, in the opinion of Government, arrived when active steps should be taken to redress the balance in favour of North Travancore. So far as the Quilon Division is concerned, it benefits most by the line of railway and it is better provided with roads than Kottayam. Further, a scheme of improving the irrigation tanks of the Shenottah taluk (in the Quilon Division) is under preparation which, when carried out, would probably cost three or four lakhs of rupees. The wants of the Kottayam Division therefore deserve most consideration at our hands, and His Highness' Government would now take up and pursue steadily the policy of opening up new communications or bringing under efficient maintenance such of the existing communications as are not being regularly maintained in the Kottayam Division. We are anxious, in framing a programme of action, to associate with ourselves the people who are to be benefited; and I would therefore suggest that the members from the Kottayam Division should meet under the presidency of the Chief Engineer and select the works which they consider most necessary and to which they wish that preferential consideration should be given. A special allotment of a lakh of rupees will be made for this purpose in the budget of 1085."

But, in spite of this hopeful beginning, nothing came out of this proposal as the minutes of the meeting abundantly prove. Some of the works suggested as the most urgent have not yet even been undertaken. The Dewan again referred to the subject in 1087 and said:

"There can be no doubt that for a long time to come the department will have to devote a great deal of its attention to the development of communications especially in Middle and North Travancore. Referring to the subject, the Chief Engineer has written as follows to Government:..... As regards the road extension, it is all but at a standstill. A few miles are opened every year, that is all. The road system of the country is to all intents and purposes practically what it was when Mr. A. H. Jacob left, although in the meantime the population has increased by 30 per cent. and the revenue by more and land values have increased four-fold..... As regards the canal system, its condition is a reproach to the State..... It seems to me that expenditure on these lines would tend more to the development and benefit of the State than money expended on buildings.' The Government note that at successive sessions of the Assembly the majority of the representations made relate to the need for new roads or to the improvements necessary in the existing ones."

In fact, however, the department was not able to devote its attention to communications as costly buildings had again to be put up in Trivandrum for which provision had to be made. A scheme for the formation

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of local boards for dealing with the question of developing minor roads for which there was insistent demand appears to have been submitted by Mr. Bastow. But the scheme does not seem to have been brought into force. The expenditure on public works had been steadily increasing and in 1090 it had reached the high figure of Rs. 38½ lakhs. But the allotment began to decline after the war; and for five years from 1091, the allotment for the Public Works Department was somewhere about Rs. 23 lakhs a year or even less, and in no year had expenditure on communications exceeded Rs. 5·16 lakhs. In 1096, the members of the then reformed Legislative Council raised a protest against the reduction of expenditure in the Public Works Department and advocated an increased expenditure on communications in the northern taluks. I find that Mr. Nidiry went so far as to suggest that Parur, the northernmost taluk, should first be taken up in the matter of the distribution of funds for public works. It was the practice here to cut short allotments in the P. W. D. whenever there was a large fall in the revenue or a rise in expenditure, and in 1098 this practice was adopted by cutting down the grant for original works to the extent of five lakhs of rupees.

It was declared in 1097 that the bulk of the expenditure of the Public Works Department should be on communications especially in the northern taluks of the State and that it was the policy of the Government to entrust the maintenance of village roads to local inhabitants. In that year, draft rules were framed for standardising the future construction of village roads by private agencies and for the assumption of their management by the Government, and these rules were issued in their final form in 1098. But though 102 miles of ryots' roads had been taken over by the department by 1099 and a sum of Rs. 34,000 spent up to 1098 by the Government, the scheme has not worked well and the Government had to admit that—

"the rules regulating the construction of these roads having been found to be somewhat inelastic in actual working, the suggestions of the Chief Engineer for their suitable amendment are now under the consideration of the Government."

It is hardly necessary to point out that this scheme could not be solely relied on to supply the defect of communications in North Travancore.

In his address to the Assembly at its last session, the Dewan said:

"The centre of activity of the department in the matter of communications has properly shifted to the northern taluks of the State which have not yet been satisfactorily served in that respect."

It is no doubt gratifying to see that the policy of the Government has changed in recent years and that expenditure on buildings has decreased and that on communications has proportionately increased. But the expenditure on communications in North Travancore has not, even since 1097 when the northern taluks are said to have been favoured in the distribution of funds, been such as to "*redress the balance in favour of North Travancore.*" In 1097, the expenditure on the maintenance of existing communications was Rs. 7,17,760 and the total outlay on communications (original works) was Rs. 8,86,752, of which Rs. 4,22,563

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

was on roads alone. Though in this year "the bulk of the expenditure" is said to have been on communications especially in the northern taluks, only the Shertallai town roads, the Talayolaparampu-Kuttattukulam road and the Puvankadavu road were the only roads taken up for construction; and they are *still* uncompleted. In 1098 also, we find from the budget that, as a matter of fact, only Rs. 1,11,300 was the total amount of the grant for roads in the northern revenue division out of a total grant of Rs. 4,08,466 for original road works. In 1099 also, the budget allotment for roads in the northern division is only Rs. 1,11,550 out of the total allotment on original road works, and only about the same amount is provided in the present budget. It will thus be seen that no substantial progress has in fact been made in the matter of communications, even though it is said that the bulk of the expenditure is on communications in North Travancore since 1097. In view of the comparatively more extensive area of the northern parts of the country, its population and its wealth, and in view of its neglected condition for so many years past, a far more substantial contribution every year is necessary to develop it and to bring it into line with the other parts of the country. The statement furnished in answer to a question as to the mileage of roads and the expenditure thereon in the different taluks of the State shows how poor the taluks of Parur and Alangad, Shertallai, Vaikam, Kartikapalli and other taluks still are in the matter of roads.

The condition of irrigation and drainage canals for the improvement of cultivation in North Travancore is far worse. North Travancore does not stand in need of any elaborate or costly irrigation works on account of its heavy and unfailing rainfall. The expenditure on irrigation works was, till the year 1062, directed almost exclusively to South Travancore, while in North and Central Travancore the repair and restoration of channels and bunds serving irrigation purposes were left to the land-owners themselves. More than Rs. 12 lakhs had been spent upon irrigation works in South Travancore by the year 1060; A sum of Rs. 15,000 had subsequently to be set apart annually for irrigation works in the Shencottah taluk. The Government therefore sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 20,000, subsequently raised to Rs. 30,000, for the Northern and Quilon Divisions to be expended on irrigation and drainage channels by Division Peishkars in consultation with the land-owners interested and to be rateably recovered from them along with the tax. The rules also provided for a portion of the expenditure not exceeding one-half in each case being borne by the Sirkar, if there were special grounds for doing so. This arrangement did not serve the object in view and the funds were in no year utilised to any large extent. In 1072, the Irrigation Regulation was passed which provides for the construction, repair and maintenance of irrigation works and for the conservation and distribution of water for purposes of irrigation. But this Regulation also

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

has wholly failed to achieve the object intended by the legislators in 1072. It is unfortunate that, whenever the claims of North Travancore for a share in the distribution of funds are put forward, they are met by such rules and regulations as are so wholly unworkable in practice.

On account of the heavy rainfall and the annual floods, the Kanni crop in many parts of the country north of Quilon is generally damaged almost every year. Though this year's flood has brought the matter conspicuously to the attention of Government, the damage has been going on in several parts of North Travancore every year. What the northern taluks require is a system of drainage canals more than anything else. For the protection of cultivation, these canals are far more important than roads and should therefore be more carefully attended to by the department. The existence of traces of old canals amply testifies to the fact that there existed in olden days a complete network of drainage canals in many taluks in North Travancore. In old days there were even village watchers to look after the river-bunds and prevent breaches being made in the bunds, as the existence of these bunds was a sufficient protection against the encroachment of water to the fields in flood-time. With the drainage canals providing outlet to the lake or rivers and the bunds along the banks of the rivers, sufficient safe-guards existed in pre-engineering days against damage to cultivation by ordinary floods. But those works have gone and are not cared for. So far as the Vaikam taluk is concerned, most of the prayers made for drainage canals are merely for the restoration of the old canals which served agriculture so well in olden days. But hitherto the attention paid by the department to these works has been extremely poor. At every session of the Popular Assembly since its institution, the members from the Vaikam taluk, for instance, have been praying for the restoration of about fourteen canals which served the purpose of drainage during flood-time and of irrigation for the Kumbham crop. As a result of the repeated prayers during all these twenty years in the Assembly and in this Council, the restoration of *one* of these canals has been provided for in the present budget at a cost of Rs. 4,280, of which Rs. 2,000 alone has been allotted this year. Most of these canals have been completely silted up and portions have been encroached upon and perhaps registered in favour of private individuals. If these canals had been restored, cultivation would not only have thriven in those parts, but even the havoc of a flood like the present would have been considerably small in proportion.

It seems to me that the Engineering Department does not attend to the needs of agriculture. In old days, the Peishkar, who was the head of the administration in a division in all its branches, had at least the occasion to look to the necessities of the cultivators. With the division of departments, it has become the duty of the Engineer Officers to look to these interests. But it is doubtful whether the officers of the department have gone into the interior of the country to see to the local needs of the people. These officers will have to associate with the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

people more freely and discuss their wants with them. It seems to me that the Chief Engineer himself must go to the interior parts of the country and see the real difficulties the agricultural population is labouring under. We find from the *Administration Report* of the year 1098 that the Chief Engineer was on inspection duty only for 112 days as against 177 days in the previous year, and of these days it is impossible to say for how many days he was in North Travancore.

It was in 1086 that the department was re-organised at an increased cost of Rs. 71,000 a year on establishment. The actual saving on account of the re-organisation in 1098 was only Rs. 3,765. Owing to the insufficient allotments made for the Department of Public Works for about six years after 1091, the establishment had not even sufficient work to do during that period. The re-organisation of the department in 1086 was with a view to make the staff efficient enough to spend the large allotments made in those years. We have seen that in 1090 the grant had gone up to Rs. 38 lakhs and yet this department stood in no need of recruitment. It is really surprising to hear that additional establishments might be necessary to spend even the additional amount of Rs. 3 lakhs now provided. It seems to me that the department has no reason to complain that its staff is insufficient to cope with the work. There is also no reason why lapses should occur. There was a lapse of Rs. 44,627 under the ordinary operations of the department in 1098. It seems to me that the department is sufficiently well-constituted to do far more than the work it has been called upon to do in previous years.

My submission, therefore, is that the allotments generally made for the northern taluks of the State are insufficient and that far more liberal allotments should be made in future. In the peculiar conditions brought about by the floods a larger additional allotment than the sum of Rs. 3 lakhs granted is absolutely necessary, if the work of relief and of reconstruction is to be really effective.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Another year has come round and we are at our third budget. We meet to-day under the cloud of a truly national disaster which has practically devastated the whole of Central and North Travancore. The paucity of full and detailed information about the extent of the havoc wrought by the floods, about the loss of human and animal lives, is perhaps inevitable. The official and newspaper reports are meagre and scanty and it is to be feared that the loss of property will be unprecedented. It aggravates our plight to learn that Cochin and the neighbouring districts of the Madras Presidency are afflicted with a similar calamity; for, apart from the check their distressing condition may offer to the possible flow of philanthrophy to this land of charity, our trade-routes have been disorganised and the sources of our food supply cut short; and the prices of articles are daily increasing as a result.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

It is gratifying, however, to feel that, in this hour of need, we have got the repeated assurances of the Government that the entire resources at its disposal would be made available for immediate relief as well as for future reconstruction.

Sir, the economic level of the average Travancore agriculturist is normally so low, his staying power and capital are so inappreciable, that the destruction of one crop, the loss of the seed, cattle and implements for the next, and, perhaps too, the disappearance of his house, mean starvation and utter ruin to him. You cannot build on the insecure, rather unsubstantial and imaginary, foundation of the resilience or recuperative power of a man whose capital is often a *minus* quantity and whose credit is even at the best of times at a low ebb. The task that lies before the Government is therefore one of the greatest magnitude, and one which, well-performed, will serve to rehabilitate the peasant proprietor in a position of comparative affluence. It is of the utmost importance to realise that, if the work of immediate relief is paramount and cannot be postponed, the work of restoration and reconstruction is equally obligatory in the permanent interests of the country.

The preliminary budget, framed before the sudden turn events have taken during the last fortnight, requires therefore to be hatched again and hatched differently. As rightly observed by the Financial Secretary, he is "groping in the dark" as to the factors that might eventually result in violent fluctuations of his present forecast; and the present budget is a budget of uncertainties. The remission and suspension of land revenue demands will have to be allowed in a generous measure; and it is hoped that, for some time to come, the Revenue Recovery Regulation will not be worked with rigour. The budgeted amount of land revenue can hardly be attained; the hopes of realising more revenue from forests may have to be abandoned, especially if the report that the timber in some of the water depôts has been washed away is true; and it cannot be doubted that there will be a perceptible fall under customs and excise during the ensuing year. Receipts under all other items of taxation, both direct and indirect, are likely to show a marked decline.

This leads one naturally to the question of developing our sources of revenue. The Financial Secretary observed with some satisfaction that the cash balance with the Government and the short-term deposits owned by Government will adequately meet our requirements and enable us to tide over the temporary deficit and that there was no cause for alarm. He assured us of the soundness and stability of our finances. But I hope he will pardon me when I express my inability to share in his optimism which no doubt has its own effect in cheering us for the moment. In fact, the *Appropriation Report* published by the Financial Secretary echoes the very sentiment expressed by us from year to year. He observes:

"The normal expansion of the revenues of the State cannot, in future, be very large. Salt duty has already been brought down to the old rate and only the normal revenue will be realised under that head in future. Excise revenue is also likely to show a progressive decline. For expenditure, we have adopted a standard which it will be now

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

difficult to reduce substantially. On the contrary, it must go necessarily higher still The expenditure on salaries will increase further by the accrual of increments in the time-scales introduced in all departments. Educational expenditure has been increasing at an average of about Rs. 2 lakhs per year and the final stage of its growth cannot be said to have been reached yet. If the University scheme now under contemplation were to materialise, it might involve heavy initial and recurring expenditure. Large sums may also be demanded every year for expenditure on Public Works, Medical Relief, Agriculture, Industries etc. Government will also have to find some provision every year for any unforeseen expenditure. Such being the position, the only way to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position is to augment the revenue resources of the State and reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions."

I have thought fit to quote this passage in full, for it sums up the true state of affairs. Be it also noted that this was recorded by the Financial Secretary in quite normal times when nothing had happened to upset his calculations. It is only in times of great adversity that the real situation is brought out in bold relief and now is the time for the authorities concerned to tackle the problem with courage and imagination.

The separation of the stable items of revenue from the fluctuating ones and the desirability of confining the normal recurring expenditure to the permanent revenue have been urged in this Council more than once in the past; but strangely enough, that dual functionary, the Financial Secretary to Government and Chief Account Officer, who can without compunction meet the recurring expenditure for one year on account of departmental re-organisations and revisions of salaries from unexpected windfalls, and who feels himself obliged to provide for the same the next year by postponing the development of communications, considers it impossible to do in Travancore what is being done in Mysore.

It is, high time we explored the possibility of adding to our resources without imposing a corresponding burden on the land and the agriculturist. Sir, the most important question which can no more afford to be ignored is the revision of the Interportal Trade Convention. You are no doubt aware of the strong volume of public opinion in the matter which has made itself vocal both in this Council and elsewhere. You are also no doubt aware of the representations that are being made by the Government of Mysore for payment of its share of the customs duty levied on imported articles. Our total revenue under customs for 1100 is fixed at Rs. 23·57 lakhs, of which only about Rs. 2¼ lakhs is to be realised under duty on imports. Under the Convention entered into in 1865, *i. e.*, nearly sixty years ago, we are sacrificing a substantial share of our customs revenue. The number of dutiable articles and the tariff rates have been enhanced in British India and the burden of indirect taxation is equally heavy on us. We are denied rebate on opium as in the case of ganja imported into the State; and the concession we are supposed to enjoy in regard to salt is only nominal inasmuch as, with some enthusiasm and earnestness and, I would add, patriotism on the part of the Excise Department, the State

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

could easily be self-contained in the matter of salt. The State is refunding to the British Government one-half of the duty levied on Travancore tea exported through British Indian ports and, as the figures show, the amount is not inconsiderable. The principle or policy underlying this arrangement may well be reciprocated. I am not unaware that, in the case of imports through our ports, we could levy duty at the same rates as those obtaining in British India and that imports for Government purposes are not liable to pay duty if landed at our ports. These two are illusory advantages, inasmuch as our ports are inaccessible during most parts of the year and are devoid of railway communication to the interior. Besides, their development and expansion are matters which are not only not within the purview of this Council, but would even appear to be guided by a variety of extraneous influences such as the practicability of the Cochin Harbour Scheme or the effect on Madras Port dues of the improvement of West Coast ports,—factors over which even the Travancore Government have no control. I wish the Financial Secretary would furnish figures showing the amounts paid under customs duty on account of articles imported through British Indian ports for Government purposes and state whether, in any such instance, the duty realised has been refunded. My contention is that the trade agreements with the British Indian Government require revision and that no time should be lost in placing our case before the Government of India. The present arrangements are not only antiquated, inelastic, and illogical; but they are crippling the resources of the State and effectively checking the normal expansion of our revenues in the most legitimate direction. May we not hope, Sir, that your powerful advocacy will not be wanting to obtain for Travancore her due share of the customs revenue?

The cry of all critics of the post-war finances of all Governments has been for retrenchment, and this Council may claim that, by means of interpellations, resolutions, motions on the budget and observations made in the course of the general discussion, it has been urging on the Government the need for further economy and for reduction of establishment. When one scrutinises the additional appointments created during the last three or four years, one is often tempted to despair of the amenability of the Travancore Government to public opinion or to believe implicitly in the proposition made familiar to us by Mr. George that the furthest limit of retrenchment has been reached here. Side by side with the creation of new offices and the consequent deflection of the funds required for, what may be termed, the nation-building activities, the burden of the tax-payer has, during the same period, been appreciably added to by such impositions as the income-tax, enhancement of Anchal rates, raising of school fees, market dues, and an array of municipal rates. It is far from my present object to deny that all the new appointments are unnecessary or that some of the new taxes have served to make the incidence of taxation equitable. I should also take occasion to thank the Government for starting the Development Departments on a progressive basis. The attempt to co-ordinate their activities, and the comparative readiness with which their allotments have been annually increased will always be associated with your name.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

It is my considered opinion, however, Sir, that the aggregate expenditure on salaries and establishment is out of all proportion to our resources or the needs of efficiency and that the development departments should be further expanded and placed in ample funds.

It is a matter for gratification that the Financial Secretary proposes to drop several of the new schemes mentioned in the preliminary budget and involving additional expenditure which can well afford to wait. There are, besides, other schemes such as the L. R. M. work which are continuations of old temporary schemes, which could also be postponed without great harm. All new proposals involving additions of establishment should be postponed for more favourable times. The allotments proposed for incomplete buildings should be reduced to the minimum and all new building works such as the Stamp Manufactory may be abandoned for the time being. Primary attention should be bestowed on communications and protective irrigation works, both of which have badly suffered on account of the floods. The allotment for the P. W. D. should be substantially increased, which will also have the indirect advantage of providing employment. I should particularly mention that most of the works for which provision is now made in the budget are long overdue and that they should not again be postponed to find funds for repairing breaches of roads or putting up bridges in the flooded taluks. Funds for such purposes should be granted afresh and a comprehensive programme of public works for all parts of the State should be drawn up at once and carried through.

I should congratulate the Government on the promptness with which relief measures were adopted by them and the allotment, to begin with, of Rs. 3 lakhs, for special expenditure on this account. In regard to the work of restoration and reconstruction, the task should be approached with great courage. Broad views should be taken and it must never be forgotten that the poor tax-payer is the real paymaster and ultimately the mainstay of the Government. Lakhs of rupees will have to be set apart for the grant of loans required for such various purposes as the purchase of cattle, seeds, manure, and implements of husbandry, for the building of houses, for the construction of minor protective works of irrigation, etc. We are extremely grateful to the Government for the beginning they have made in this direction by allotting over Rs. 5 lakhs for the ensuing year. In this connection, I should urge the wisdom of enlisting the enthusiasm and knowledge of Co-operative Societies for the work of distributing the loans, etc. The very rapid strides which the co-operative movement has taken during the last three or four years, thanks mainly to your active sympathy and wise guidance, and the efficiency of the organisation as we had occasion recently to judge, have emboldened me to make this request and to assure you that, in this network of co-operative societies, Government possess a much better agency than any department like the Revenue or the Police to ascertain local needs, individual credit, etc.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Before I close, I may be permitted to refer to one more question of vital interest to Travancore. The status of Travancore among the comity of Indian States has changed with the establishment of direct relations with the Government of India. Our representations regarding the revision of trade agreements are bound to be more successful now than when urged before a neighbouring provincial Government distressed with its own worries of a heavy contribution to the Central Government. We are, as you observed in your address at the last session of the Assembly, in the front rank of Indian States in point of education, representative institutions, etc., and it behoves us that we discard our petty parochial notions and seek our legitimate place in the Federal India of the future. Travancore should claim to be represented in conferences or councils where all-India questions come up for discussion, for our welfare is intimately connected with the decisions arrived at by such bodies. We have also a claim to be consulted before fundamental changes affecting the constitution of the British Indian Government, and therefore intimately concerning us, are made. We cannot afford to stand apart and look on while vast changes in the political framework of the British Indian Government are sought to be brought about without assigning a definite place for the Indian States which have to share with British India her fortunes and adversities in matters of common concern. Travancore will therefore ever be on the watch and should take the earliest opportunity to press her claims for due representation in the councils of the Empire.

Before concluding I would repeat my prayer that the Council which will discuss the budget for 1101 may meet under happier auspices and more prosperous conditions and that it may be given to you, Sir, to see that the next Council is constituted on a more democratic basis.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Before I deal with the budget, allow me, Sir, to congratulate the Government on the prompt steps taken by them to relieve the distress of the people affected by the flood. It is a matter for gratification that the Head of the Administration, the Dewan, found time in spite of the heavy work in connection with the budget session of the Council, to go and get first-hand information about the havoc that has been played by the flood. 'One touch of nature makes the whole world kin', and it is acts like these that will endear the Head of the Administration to the people. Sir, the present budget should be characterised as antedeluvian—not that it is particularly primitive in character, but as it was drafted anterior to the flood (*laughter*). The floods have completely upset the calculations of the Government and their Financial Advisor. The Financial Secretary has given us such a vivid description of the havoc committed by the floods and the financial situation created thereby, that it is not necessary for me to go over the whole ground again. Cocoanut plantations and the yield of the cocoanut tree must be seriously affected and very great damage must have been caused to other cultivation, both wet and dry. Many merchants have lost their stores of coir, copra, and other merchandise and some of them are said to have been ruined. Therefore, there is likely to be great

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[MR. A. Hoogewerf.]

trade depression for some time to come. This would bring down the amount anticipated under income tax and customs and in other ways diminish the revenue. Tremendous damage has been done to the railway, and it will take some time before through communication is restored. The earnings, therefore, both from goods and passenger traffic, must considerably diminish. Excise revenue also cannot but suffer to a great extent, as the labouring classes with whom it will be a struggle for existence and on whom this immoral revenue mostly depends will have no money to spend in the grog shop. It is said that much damage has been done in the salt stored in the Munambam salt depôt, causing probably a loss of three or four lakhs of rupees, and that water found its way into some of the salt sheds at Alleppey. The factories in South Travancore also must have suffered.

On the expenditure side too, a topsyturvy situation has been brought about, as the Government would have to undertake expensive schemes of reconstruction in the devastated areas. It is gratifying to note that the Government are prepared to help the people in every way to stand on their feet again. In the matter of the railway, the tracks that have been destroyed would cost a great deal of money to reconstruct. The Public Works Department have their work cut out for them, as repairs to roads, bridges, etc., would have to be undertaken on an unprecedented scale. The water in the rivers came down suddenly carrying death and destruction before it, and almost in the twinkling of an eye, the whole situation was changed. The industrial and agricultural development of the country, on which we have been building so much hope, is indeed dark and gloomy. So much for the changes in the budget necessitated by the floods. But, even without this, there are many matters that require careful scrutiny.

About half the revenue of the State is derived from excise, tobacco, salt and customs. The tobacco revenue has reached its high-water mark, as also the duty on salt. Excise duty, etc., on arrack, toddy, opium and ganja, may vanish sooner or later. Customs, therefore, is our sheet-anchor, and on this head of revenue we must concentrate our attention. But sad to say, this revenue is shrinking from year to year. This fact has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government in this Council, but no steps have been taken to improve matters. The Land Customs Regulation was passed eight years ago, but the rules to govern its provisions have not yet seen the light of day. The loudly-voiced demand for the revision of the Interportal Convention brought before this House by the Deputy President of this Council and others has fallen on deaf ears. Since the terms of the convention had been drawn up, our trade has increased by leaps and bounds; but the amount we get on import duty has been *in statu quo*. If the Cochin Harbour comes into being, even the little we get by direct imports through our own ports will vanish, as ships are sure to give the go-by to Alleppey when there is a first class harbour close by. It is therefore

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

only by the revision of the Convention that we can hope to get our just dues. But till then, is it not possible to divert our imports, a great portion of which now comes through Cochin, to our own ports? Medicines, stationery, iron materials, etc., which are imported by the Government, if ordered in time, may be landed at Alleppey in dry weather, and merchants also induced to get their piece-goods, etc., imported at the same time, through our ports.

Coming to exports, it is in our own hands to increase our revenue under this head. Facilities may be offered for exporting tea, on which we lose so much duty, through our own ports. We are certainly not getting all our dues in the export of the produce of the cocoanut tree and other items, in spite of the army of men stationed on our frontiers. The notorious smuggling of oil through the Arukutty chowkey on which questions were asked by Mr. Kumara Pillai when this Council opened last week, tells its own tale. Comment is unnecessary. The stock excuses that are usually brought out whenever there is a fall in customs revenue, *viz.*, the poor yield of the cocoanut tree, unseasonable rains, economic depression, etc., must often be taken *cum grano salis*. The occasional increase we have had, both in imports and in exports, has often been brought about by enhancement of duty. The statement laid before this House yesterday about the manufacture of salt in our factories speaks for itself. The output ten years ago was much more than that of 1097 and almost the same as that of 1098. The old *allom* at Tamarakulam which manufactured over one lakh of maunds ten years ago had an output of only 34,720 maunds in 1097 and 66,522 maunds in 1098. The Puttallom which manufactured 130,113 maunds ten years ago had an output of only 48,320 maunds last year. I looked up the returns of about twenty years back and found that we were manufacturing over four lakhs even then. Is it not possible for a country so favourably situated with a sea-board and salt lakes to be self-contained in its salt supply? On this more anon.

The income from excise, as stated before, can never be relied upon. The delay of four long years in introducing the independent shop system in some of the taluks in North Travancore has brought about a loss to the Government of about five lakhs of rupees and the explanations given cannot hold water for a second. The tax-payer who is ground almost to death with so many taxes would wish to know who is responsible for this tremendous loss to the State. But over and above the loss caused by defects in administration, the excise revenue is destined to disappear. The whole world is moving towards total prohibition. Now, if ever, are all Travancoreans, without distinction of caste or creed, united in praying to Almighty God that Travancore should go dry. The time is not far off when they would be all united in praying that Travancore should go dry in a different direction (*laughter*). Government too have declared prohibition to be the goal. The Excise Committee, which was proclaimed from the house-tops, has proved to be an addled egg. Revenue from this unholy source continues to be a fetish, at the sacrifice of the people's health, peace and prosperity. There may soon be a nemesis and the Government must be prepared for it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

The Public Works Department and its working have been repeatedly called in question. Lakhs are spent upon works like beautifying the Alleppey Canal and undertaking those of doubtful utility like the Shertallai canal. Good money is thrown away after bad, as in the case of the extension of the new buildings put up in the Natural Science Department in His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Science which, it is said, has been condemned by the University authorities. Top-heaviness in this and in most of the departments has been the bane of the Travancore administration and matters are drifting from bad to worse. Instead of doing away with unnecessary appointments, new ones are created; and officers who should be laid on the shelf are given extensions. The manner in which inspection work is made by officers, often paying flying visits to earn travelling allowance, is far from satisfactory. A closer and more careful scrutiny of the diaries of heads of departments by the Government and those of subordinate officers by heads of departments should be made in the interests of good administration. The summary way in which some officers are punished and forced to retire is creating an uncertainty in the public service, and an impression has also gained ground, Sir, that certain officers may do many things with impunity. The preferential treatment meted out to a few favoured communities is causing much heart-burning and bringing about discord between community and community. The large Catholic community, for instance, is not sufficiently represented in the public service, in spite of repeated representations and appeals made to the Government.

A number of new items of expenditure is staring us in the face and the cuts made by the Financial Secretary are only skin-deep. This House fully expected that the Financial Secretary would have had the grace to effect deeper cuts and even amputations in this direction.

This Council is said not to have justified its existence and we are taken to task for allowing the powers that be to have their own way in nearly everything. This is the last time that most of us will have a chance of doing some substantial good to our country. "Out of evil cometh, good."; and let us not miss this golden opportunity of not only doing away with all unnecessary appointments and sinecures which have been, from time to time, pointed out in this House *ad nauseam*, but also by not sanctioning any new grants except those that are absolutely necessary and are of a *very urgent* nature, for Public Works, Medical Relief and Education. Most probably, many more lakhs will be required for relief and reconstruction work than those estimated by the Financial Secretary and every *chackram* has to be saved for it. Advantage should be taken to give employment to the starving people by immediately opening famine relief works. This may be an opportune moment to improve communication in the northern taluks and for completing the works already begun. When giving relief to the distressed, the utmost care should be taken that the alleged scandals in regard to the rice-supply during the late famine are not repeated. A University is looming on the horizon and no provision appears to have

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

been made for it. The grants sanctioned for aided schools are far from generous. The Government often appear to forget the great work which missionary and other bodies have been andare doing in bringing Travancore to the forefront of Indian States in the matter of education. The question of water-supply for the capital of the State is still in a state of incubation. Meanwhile typhoid and other diseases are carrying on their work of destruction. Elephantiasis or the Shertallai leg is getting to be common here. The people are already overburdened and new taxes in the present condition of the country may spell disaster. Is this not an opportune moment to undertake the resettlement of some of the taluks not affected by the floods and thereby tap a big source of revenue? Settlement was completed in the taluks of Trivandram, Chirayinkil, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara over thirty-five years ago, and they are fully ripe for resettlement now. The ground is ready and so also the labourers in the person of Assistant Tahsildars. The good seed has only to be sown with a willing and generous hand to reap a rich harvest to feed the poor and the hungry and help those who have lost their all in this disaster and refill our partially empty exchequer.

In conclusion, pardon me, Sir, for referring to the struggle for freedom and equal citizenship that is going on in certain parts of our State for some time now. Noble souls who belong to the higher classes—a few of whom are seated in this Council—have stretched out their right hand of fellowship to their outcast brethren. Will not the benign Government of our Gracious Sovereign, whose motto is "Charity Our Household Divinity" do likewise? I earnestly appeal to you, Sir, and I am sure every member on this side of the House will join me in the fervent prayer, that these unfortunate people who form a large bulk of the population of the State and are its backbone and mainstay may be treated as human beings and given the ordinary rights enjoyed by their more fortunate brethren. Humanity and religion demand it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, as the Financial Secretary has already told us, we are discussing an uncertain budget under distressing circumstances. The terrible freak of nature, which has devastated the fertile portions of the State, impoverished the agriculturists and rendered the poor homeless, has shattered all our expectations and upset all our calculations of revenue and expenditure. After a quinquennium of partial famine from which the people have not fully recovered, this year people's hearts were immensely gladdened at the lovely sight of verdant smiling crops. The flood was a cruel shock to the farmers of the country. My constituency has suffered untold miseries owing to the terrible inundation and devastation. The extent of damages caused by floods in certain parts of the Pattanamtitta taluk is not yet known or ascertained as some regions are inaccessible to outsiders in this season. I have got reliable reports from Ranni that no help has yet reached the people there from official or non-official sympathisers. Most of the houses in the street of Katakkad were damaged. I myself am an eye-witness to the doings of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

the floods in certain portions of Chengannur. I was truly horrified at the deplorable plight of the poor labourers and indebted petty farmers. In Chengannur, near the *punja* fields and the Pampa river, there are very few houses with mud walls which have not crumbled down. Houses were destroyed: crops were damaged; cattle were killed and maimed by the floods. In my village itself, five persons have succumbed to inundation. Farmers are deprived of seeds and live stock. Cocoanut trees were uprooted. I found that in two or three compounds whole forests had settled down and crushed all fruit-bearing trees. These compounds present the appearance of large timber depôts. Underneath the heaps of timber are found remnants of many valuable timber houses which are being pilferred away by bands of fuel-hunters. The Conservator of Forests has asked his subordinates to mark big trees and the rest are being removed by various persons. There is nobody to look after the remnants of houses and other valuable articles deposited by the floods in various localities.

My constituents have specially asked me to convey their thanks to the Government for all the help promptly rendered in the hour of their trial and tribulation. They have also asked me to lay before the Government their difficulties and grievances. I must congratulate the Government for the speedy relief which they intend to afford to the distressed in the land. The farmers in my constituency demand that tax should be remitted for at least two instalments. The first thing which the poor expect from the Government and the charitably-inclined public is some pecuniary help to erect small huts. A resolution was passed at a meeting in Chengannur that the Government should be requested to advance Rs. 10 each to every poor man whose hut had been destroyed. The distressed people expect a loan of seeds, live stock and some capital from the Government which may be made repayable after seven years by instalments. There is now scarcity of food-stuffs. The profiteering merchants have inflated the price of rice. If the stock of food-stuffs runs short, Government will have to be very vigilant in ascertaining the price and quantity and devising means for supplies. A peculiar feature of the loss in Chengannur is the ravages made by the floating trees, which I have mentioned above. The trees, most of which do not come under the category of royal trees, may belong to the Government or private owners. Those who are damnified by the onslaught of the flotilla of trees claim some compensation for the loss, if trees are to be removed by the Government. In Chengannur, a committee of non-official gentlemen are touring in each and every *pakuthi* to ascertain the actual loss sustained by each individual and to submit a report to the Government for the speedy redress of the people's grievances.

As Mr. George has observed, flood relief throughout Travancore will certainly dislocate our finances and will land us in a huge deficit. It is impossible to collect true statistics of the damages occasioned by

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the floods within so short a time and to adjust our revenue and expenditure. The people will be thankful to the Government for the provision of an additional sum of Rs. 3 lakhs in the P. W. D. budget and of Rs. 4 lakhs for agricultural loans. In this time of scarcity, Government should save every pie and utilise it for flood relief. Out of Rs. 4,19,000 provided for construction of buildings in the P. W. D., the provision for new buildings should been tirely diverted tothe improvement of communications. Only half of the amount allotted for incomplete buildings need be spent this year. There is a complaint that North and Central Travancore are neglected in the matter of communications. The Government can avail themselves of this opportunity to remove that complaint and to afford relief to the poor. If construction of roads and bridges is begun early in the year instead of postponing it to the end of the year, it will be a blessing. I am of opinion that additional funds allotted for certain departments should be reserved to afford relief to the distressed. People will be prepared to forego education or expansion of industries when they are confronted with a calamity. I agree with Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai in suggesting that increments of salary that fall due within the course of one year in the case of officers drawing a salary of Rs. 100 and above may be suspended in view of the distress. Government ought to take particular care that the relief reaches the poor of the land. The loans and donations should be made in consultation with local flood relief committees. The Protector of the Depressed Classes must see that homeless Pulayas and others are actually helped with the Government and other funds.

With all the savings that may be effected, there may be a huge deficit next year. All the principal heads of revenue will suffer directly and indirectly. In addition to the effects of the floods, the railway breaches near Arienkavu will entail additional working expenses and interest charges. The Financial Secretary does not seem to have taken note of that fact. In the light of altered circumstances, the consideration of the merits and demerits of the budget before the House will serve no useful purpose. Everybody is entirely in the dark as to the probable revenue and expenditure of 1100.

I have been for the last two years constantly pleading for further retrenchment in the normal expenditure of the State. A resolution was moved by me in this Council for the appointment of a committee to retrench expenditure. But the Government have not seen their way to make any further investigation into the possibilities of curtailing the ordinary expenses of administration. In answer to Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution about the expenditure on salaries, the Financial Secretary told us that further retrenchment could not be made in any department without risk to its efficiency. With his characteristic optimism, Mr. George observed in his budget speech last year that, considering the difficulties which the Government of India and some Indian States were experiencing, our outlook was not at all gloomy. Even now Mr. George tells us that we are not to be alarmed as the deficits will only be temporary and due to abnormal causes, and that, when the effect of the catastrophe is gone, our financial position will

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

not be found wanting in either soundness or stability. Mr. Nilakanta Pillai contended, while opposing my resolution for retrenchment, that the three essential factors which ensure complete financial stability, *viz.*, (1) a balanced revenue budget, (2) provision of funds for continuous development operations according to the declared policy of the Government, and (3) the maintenance of an adequate reserve for meeting all liabilities that should be reasonably anticipated, existed in Travancore. But our present condition shows that our financial position is far from satisfactory. In the provisional budget, only a less amount is provided for revenue. Even that revenue cannot certainly be realised from the people at this juncture, as the Financial Secretary has admitted. Though Messrs. George and Nilakanta Pillai opposed the appointment of a retrenchment committee, they have in unmistakable terms admitted the dire necessity of reducing expenditure and augmenting the sources of revenue. In the *Appropriation Report* for 1098, Mr. George has stated thus :

"The normal expansion of the revenues of the State cannot, in future, be very large. Salt duty has already been brought down to the old rate and only the normal revenue will be realised under that head in future. Excise revenue is also likely to show a progressive decline. For expenditure, we have adopted a standard which it will now be difficult to reduce substantially. On the contrary, it must necessarily go higher still. The expenditure on salaries will increase further by the accrual of increments in the time scales introduced in all departments by the recent revision of salaries. Educational expenditure has been increasing at an average of about two lakhs per year and the final stage of its growth cannot be said to have been reached yet. If the University scheme now under consideration were to materialise, it might involve heavy initial and recurring expenditure. Larger sums may also be demanded every year for expenditure on Public Works, Medical Relief, Agriculture, Industries, etc. Government will also have to find some provision every year for any unforeseen expenditure that may arise. Such being the position, the only way to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position is to augment the revenue resources of the State and reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions."

These remarks, coming as they do from the Financial Secretary, have to be considered seriously. They were made long before he dreamed of the floods or thought of the present budget dispositions. In the light of the additional circumstances, the duty of the Government is to minimise normal expenditure by all possible means. The effect of the floods may last longer than we anticipate. The question of augmenting the resources of revenue bristles with difficulties. Consider the enormous increase in expenditure during the last five years. The expenditure has risen out of all proportion to the revenue within a period of five years; from 1093 to 1098 the normal expenditure on salaries increased by Rs. 17½ lakhs, from Rs. 57 lakhs to Rs. 74½ lakhs, that on contingencies rose from Rs. 17 lakhs to Rs. 24½ lakhs and that on departments increased by Rs. 11½ lakhs. The revenue has increased only by Rs. 28·8 lakhs while the expenditure has increased by Rs. 35·5 lakhs. Even though there is no expenditure allotted for *murajapam* or anything of that sort next year, the provisional budget does not show a remarkable decline in total expenditure. The idea of appointing a 'Ways and Means Committee'

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

seems to have been abandoned for 'ever. At least now, Government should make an honest effort to reduce expenditure in all possible ways.

The only objection raised by the official side of this House against retrenchment is on the ground of efficiency—a term which is differently interpreted and understood. I have understood from Government publications that promotion of efficiency consists in raising the salaries of officials and making manuals and rules. To laymen like us, who are unacquainted with the technicalities of the departments, the much-repeated efficiency seems to be lacking in many departments. Rules are treated with scant courtesy by many of the departments. Some officers do not do their duty with a sense of responsibility and clean conscience. Want of efficiency is always attributed to insufficiency of emoluments. Corruption to a large extent is rampant among the lower and upper subordinates of some departments. Some departments have become self-running machines with no soul within them. During the short time allowed us for general remarks, it is not possible to mention in detail the very many irregularities which are noticeable in the workings of some departments. The defalcation case at Quilon is not one of the stray mines torpedoed by the Account Office. It is the spirit underlying that practice which is impelling some officials to do their duty. If the people complain against any officer, his immediate superior hushes up the whole matter and takes up a defiant attitude against the complainants. It becomes a sort of petty tug-of-war between the department and the people. Sir, the Government ought to use the whip and the weeding hoe for some time to increase efficiency in the departments instead of increasing the staff and enhancing their salaries.

I am for the third time urging upon the Government a further retrenchment of normal expenditure not only next year but in future. Our standard has to be lowered a little in unison with the economic conditions of the country. There were various suggestions thrown out by the members on this side of the House with regard to reduction of expenditure. We advocated the abolition of the Devicolam Division, reduction of Excise circles, transfer of collection of excise *kist* to the Revenue Department, handing over Government schools to private agencies, entrustment of dispensaries to private practitioners, amalgamation of the Sanitary and Medical Departments, handing over Devaswoms to local Devasthanam boards, authorisation of certain recognised private persons to register documents as they attest affidavits, amalgamation of the Development Departments, extension of non-departmental Anchal offices, etc. These and other questions emphatically call for the anxious consideration of the Government.

In this connection, I wish to speak a few words with regard to the public service in Travancore. I am led to touch upon that subject as the problem of unemployment is staring the Government in the face. The system of education which we have been receiving is the parent of the unemployment of which I am speaking. The fully educated and half-educated young men of this country look to public service or the legal

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

profession as the ideal of their scholastic labours. As the appointments are very much limited in number, back-door influences, nepotism and communal considerations may play a large part in recruitment and promotion. In Travancore, politics centre round the loaves and fishes of office. Each community is pushing forward the claims of its candidates to the public service. The nature of very many questions and resolutions shows the trend of the grievances of each community. I may frankly say that there is a feeling in the country, created and spread by the legion of the unemployed, that the Government are sometimes recruiting foreigners to the public service and giving predominance to a particular class in many departments, that nepotism and recommendations and sometimes bribes are the competitive examination for preferment, that all communities are not fairly represented in the public service and that the depressed classes are entirely overlooked. These charges may be absolutely false or true. But the complaint exists and it is bound to increase when the problem of unemployment becomes keener. The subordinates of various departments are discontented on account of the uncertainty of the grounds on which promotions are granted. In this land, service is the only test by which a person's capacity is measured for promotion and encouragement. The laziest men who has got longer service will always keep down the most industrious junior. This rule impairs all efficiency in the departments and makes all the officers easy-going. Another glaring injustice in the public service is that two persons with the same qualifications entering two departments at the same time would get differential treatment in the matter of promotions. Men with no high educational qualifications would be promoted in the Police Department while men with better qualifications would have to rot in other departments. If the *cadre* system which obtains in Mysore is introduced here in all departments and grades, this unequal treatment can be avoided and competent hands be made available for suitable posts. In the name of efficiency and for the sake of avoiding communal clamour for office, I request the Government to institute competitive examinations, to introduce the *cadre* system and efficiency bar and to appoint staff selection boards to conduct examinations and to advise departments with regard to recruitment.

When the educated poor are without any work, they may jealously raise a hue and cry against the entertainment of any outsider in the public service. In 1918 a general rule was prescribed in Mysore for all departments and all grades of the service that only natives of Mysore by birth or domicile should be entertained in future whether for permanent or temporary appointments in the superior service, and that, where it is found necessary to appoint any person other than a native of Mysore, the matter should be reported to Government and their sanction obtained. Recommendations for the entertainment of non-Mysoreans in the State service should be accompanied by a full statement of reasons and a certificate that no qualified subject of His Highness the Maha

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Raja of Mysore was available for the post though the vacancy had been duly advertised. Though there is a similar rule in Travancore, the law of domicile is not defined, so much so that any person can be entertained with impunity. In Mysore the native by domicile is understood to be a person who has voluntarily fixed the habitation of himself and his family in the Mysore State, not for a mere special or temporary purpose but with the present intention of making it his permanent home. A continued residence for five years is *prima facie* evidence of his having acquired a domicile. In order to ensure that due attention is paid to these instructions, drawers of salary bills of establishments will be required to affix a certificate that no appointment is made contrary to the circular. A similar rule with respect to our public service is absolutely necessary.

I have to bring to the attention of the Government a legitimate grievance of the people before we are asked to vote supplies. I refer to the struggle which is now going on at Vaikam between certain volunteers and certain Government officers. The District Magistrate of Kottayam has prohibited Ezhavas, Pulayas and others from entering the roads round the Vaikam temple. So far as I am aware, these roads are maintained with public funds and used by the public at large. It is the birth-right of every subject of His Highness the Maha Raja to walk along any road maintained out of public funds for public benefit. Caste Hindus, Mahomedans and Christians can walk along these roads without molestation. But certain Hindu subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, for the crime of retaining their religion, are prohibited from using these roads. The prohibitory order now issued by the Government under the camouflage of maintenance of peace is a violation of popular right and an insult to the Hindu religion. Even Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists by renouncing all caste rules are not allowed to use those roads though they do not strictly come under the prohibition order. In times past the Travancore Government had earned a name for their interest in the depressed classes. During the time of Mr. Rama Aiyangar, all persons, irrespective of caste and creed, were allowed the unobstructed use of all public roads and institutions in the teeth of caste-Hindu opposition. During later administrations, the depressed classes were admitted in schools though the orthodox section foamed and fretted. On the other hand, now the Government seem to have forgotten those progressive notions and allied themselves with the forces of reactionarism. The caste-Hindu oppositionists, even though they used violence in public, were not given any prohibitory order by the District Magistrate. Government seemed to have vetoed the resolution of the Nagercoil Municipality that all roads should be open to all classes of His Highness' subjects. I deplore this attitude taken by the Government and request the Government to wipe out the disgrace which they have, by their orthodoxy, brought upon the fair name of Travancore, by throwing open all roads and *satrams* to all classes of His Highness' subjects. Sir, the conduct of the Police at Vaikam has been adversely commented upon in the press and on the platform. The District Magistrate's Press *Communiqué* has not fully

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkappalli.]

satisfied the public. The mere statement of Police Officers cannot be taken as gospel truth. From the days of the students' strike, the morale of the police has gone down. The protectors of law are reported to be behaving in a lawless manner. If, as the District Magistrate says, the action of the volunteers will create disaffection towards the officers and the Government, the behaviour of the police, as it is reported, will impair the faith which the public have in the justice, integrity and honesty of the Government. The too frequent use of some Sections of the Police Regulation which has taken the place of the Rowlatt Act in Travancore to gag certain speakers and prohibit public meetings is a dangerous interference by the executive with the liberty of the subjects, to express their thoughts and to combine for political purposes. Had some persons violated any laws of the State, they ought to have been proceeded againt under the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in the natural course of things. A Government should not trifle with the birth right of citizens. A Government should not trifle with religion. The Government ought in fairness to allow free entry in all roads to all classes of persons. It is the obstructors who must be dealt with by the police and the magistracy. I hope that Government, without prolonging the fight and further wounding the susceptibilities of the depressed communities, will allow all persons to walk along all roads maintained with public funds. I submit that this House is entitled to get this grievance redressed before we are asked to sanction grants.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Vodupuzha cum Kunnattnad*): Sir, I need hardly say that I come from an area that is suffering from the devastation of the floods. Thousands there have been rendered homeless. Grain, crops, seeds and seedlings have been entirely damaged. Cattle have been almost extinguished. The future seems to be blank as we have lost the wherewithal to start life again. We are very thankful to the Government for the speedy arrangements made by them in the matter of rendering relief. It is also gratifying to know from the re-assuring speech of the President on the opening day of the Council and that of the Financial Secretary yesterday that the Government are prepared to meet all emergencies. The Dewan's tour to some of the affected taluks cannot but give consolation to those in distress and the assurance of the Government's solicitude for the people. The help from private individuals who have escaped the havoc can only be comparatively little and that too temporary. We have therefore to fall back on the benign Government of our gracious Sovereign for relief and all reconstruction measures and means.

It is not necessary for me to say that taxes should be remitted, as the struggle for existence, which is the first consideration, will not allow the poor even to think of anything else.

The small reduction in expenditure suggested by the Financial Secretary is not at all adequate to find funds to meet this extraordinary emergency. Deeper cuts should be made and larger slices taken off.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Retrenchment in the public service should be effected ruthlessly. New appointments and enhancement of salaries should not even be thought of this year. Every unnecessary appointment that has made the service top-heavy should be done away with.

I do not think it would be a hardship if a certain precentage of the salaries of officers, from the highest down to the subordinates getting Rs. 50 per mensem, including the allowances given to the members of this House, be deducted for some time and diverted towards the reconstruction funds. In this connection, I beg to submit that profiteering should, under no circumstances, be tolerated as in the time of the rice supply. All steps should be taken to see that the help given by the Government reaches the poor man without the middleman taking a share of it, and any officer found guilty should be dealt with without mercy or quarter. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf: Hear, hear.*) The situation is abnormal and serious and I hope and pray that Government will continue the relief work with the same earnestness with which they have started it.

Sir, in the next place, I beg to say the adjustment of the budget has for its final object the peace and contentment of the various subjects of His Highness. You are aware that our country is in a state of turmoil. People once united and living in peace and good-will are divided and subdivided. Communal strife is the order of the day and there is an unholy scramble for official loaves and fishes. If matters continue in this manner, the future of this country is indeed gloomy. It is a matter, of extreme regret that Government have not rightly gauged the situation and are allowing things to go from bad to worse.

On account of the facilities given to education and its rapid spread, the problem of unemployment of the educated classes is becoming very acute. The purely literary education that is being imparted in our schools and colleges is not only not benefiting the country but is breeding a great discontent. A serious situation has been brought about and it is for the Government to consider the question with sympathy and statesmanship and find ways and means for its satisfactory solution.

It has to be admitted that the Government have, from time to time, both in the Popular Assembly and in the Council, stated their policy of equality of treatment to all the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja with regard to their entertainment in the State service. But these pronouncements continue to be more or less pious sentiments. The statements laid before this House from time to time in answer to interpellations tell their own tale. Preferential treatment of the favoured classes who are already enjoying the lion's share is still the order of the day. After a great deal of agitation the Devaswoms were separated from the Revenue Department and Government took much credit to themselves and received much praise and thanksgiving for the achievement. A big department has been created and a large slice allotted for its maintenance which is absolutely a preserve for caste-Hindus. The non-caste Hindus and the non-Hindus had great expectation that the Revenue Department, after its separation, would be one into which

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

they would be freely recruited and that legitimate promotions would be given and the injury hitherto done repaired. Two years have now elapsed and the result, I beg to state, Sir, is most disappionting. To add insult to injury, the Devaswom Department seems to be the stepping stone to the higher ranks of the Revenue Department. As matters now stand, it seems to be impossible to rise to the higher rungs of the revenue ladder without getting through the Devaswom. So what has been given with one hand is being practically taken away by the other. When a European was appointed as head of this department, our hopes were all the greater that justice would be done to the several communities which were unjustly shut out from this big arm of service for many long years. Our grief is made all the more poignant when it is seen that the old order of things is more or less continuing. The same story may be related in respect of nearly all other departments. The Education Department seems to be another preserve for one class of people and here too by a strange irony its head has always continued to be a European from whom justice and fairplay is expected. The Police, the Excise and the Registration Departments in which large recruitment could very well be made from the unrepresented communities seem also to follow in the wake of the Revenue and Education Departments.

This sort of thing cannot be allowed to continue longer both in the interest of the Government and the people. Some remedy must be found to relieve the tension between community and community by rendering equal justice to all the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. The numerical strength and literacy of each community should be the principle on which future recruitments and preferment in the service should be based so that the unrepresented communities may be soon brought into line with the more favoured ones. I beg to repeat, Sir, that until this question is seriously tackled by the Government and efficient measures are adopted, there will not be peace in the country.

Finally, Sir, I beg to say, I belong to Vaikam and I know all the details of the situation and the tragedy that is going on there now. I whole-heartedly join the two previous speakers in the appeal they have made to give equal right of citizenship to all classes and ease the tension. The sooner this is done, the better it would be for the country.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, while most people count their gains, we have to count our losses at the end of every year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Louder, please.

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): How sad it is to contemplate that scarcely a year passes without leaving us poorer and poorer in our financial aspirations in spite of a steady increase in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

our revenue. This is due to the lavishing of expenditure (1) on new appointments, (2) on exorbitant rates of salary and (3) on travelling expenses. Of course, various reforms and changes were introduced which broadened the administration, but at the same time it deepened the anxiety of the people and impoverished the financial condition of the State. People have completely out-grown this system.

We all know that Travancore was its own granary once. Now it is unable to maintain the surplus population. Every year we have to purchase a great quantity of paddy and rice. Prosperity depends upon the agriculture of a country. Once an eminent poet on the occasion of King Chola's coronation sang thus:—

"If the ryot prospers,
The king will prosper."

We have our Agricultural Department; we have our Industries Department; yet our raw materials are sent away to other countries for manufacture. We are wholly unable to do anything even for our bare necessaries of life. There is a pencil expert. He has been trained, appointed, removed and sent away to another department! At every session we are supplied with either American or German pencils. It is with a sense of pain that I criticise the subject of industrial labour. No people can be either self-respecting or respected by others unless they are able to live by themselves.

The Agricultural Department has been working for the last so many years without any good to the agriculturists. I cannot help remarking that the explanation given by the Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with the resolution on paddy cultivation reflects little credit on the department. I felt then and I do feel even now that there was no wisdom in what he said. This is what he said:

"They do not take particular care in the matter of manuring, in the preparation of soil and in the matter of using selected seeds."

Again, he defends his case in another part of his speech:—

"In most places near the Paddy Farm at Nagercoil, there is a decided increase in the out-put".

These are theories which an ordinary man of common sense and prudence can understand.

Our State Geologist is only engaged in surveying and resurveying the area of our mineral lands. It may take decades or even centuries. So we cannot expect anything from our mineral wealth in the near future.

Economy I can point out. Less costly officers should be appointed in the place of Peishkars and Tahsildars when vacancies occur. Some Tahsildars have no work to do. Some are not empowered to do full justice to their work, L.R.M. work in nine *pakuthies* of the Chirayinkil taluk is kept in abeyance. The Land Revenue Commissioner takes particular care in collecting income tax from those *pakuthies*. Anyhow he has given orders to find out and survey the *poramboke* lands of the above-said *pakuthies*. I think the Commissioner will bear in mind

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

that the lands in those *pakuthies* are *pandaravakai* lands as any other land in the State. So the Tahsildar's pay should be reduced and another officer should be appointed to do the items of work in question in the Chirayinkil taluk.

The P. W. Workshops and the Government Press work at an enormous loss even though the rates are almost double those in private institutions. Another waste I wish to point out is in the P.W.D. During the latter part of the year, they begin work by constructing dams and culverts simply for showing accounts of expenditure for the money budgeted for the year. All uncompleted works will be washed away during the monsoon. I know of instances in Chirayinkil. By this kind of waste, it has become a by-word that the abbreviation, P. W. D., is correct and that it can be called "Public Waste Department"!

In the Judicial Department, they appoint copyists more for providing jobs to their dependants than from necessity. Most of them are idling away their time without having sufficient work to do.

In the Education Department, they sanction big round sums to pay off building and furniture grants to private bodies. The time has come when we need not fear that we will not otherwise have sufficient school buildings. I protest against the grant-giving policy.

I seek your indulgence, Sir, to refer to our administrative policy. From the questions and resolutions that have been tabled in this House and from the representations made in the Popular Assembly, volumes of public criticism are levelled against officers on the score of suspicion and corruption. Perfect ignorance of public agitations by answering "they are not aware", is neither a prudent policy nor statesmanship. With these few words, I close my speech.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): നിയമസഭയിൽ ബഡ്ഡറു ഹാജരാക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയുടെ ഉറപ്പില്ലായ്മയെപ്പറ്റി തോന്നിപ്പോകാറുള്ള വിചാരം ഫ ഫ ൦ ൦ ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ഡറു ഹാജരാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിലും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതേ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ഫ ൦ ൻസ്-ൽ പ. ര ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും. ഫ ൦ ൻ ൭-ൻ ർ വ-ായിരത്തിൽ പരം രൂപായും, വരവിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചില വായിട്ടാണ് അവസാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. എന്നാൽ ഫ ൦ ൻ വ-ൽ ൭ സ ൦ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഫ ൦ ൻ വ-ൽ ഉപ്പിന്റെ വില ഫ ക്ക രൂപായിൽ നിന്നും വ ക്ക രൂപായാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചതിനാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽ കൂടുതലായിവർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ർ. വ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ നീക്കിനോക്കിയാലും സ ക്ക ലക്ഷം രൂപ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുവരുമെന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്, ഫ ൦ ൻ ൭-ൽ നി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ന്നും ഫാമിൻവ്യ-ൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് എത്രയോ അത്യാവശ്യമായി നിൽക്കുന്ന ഇഞ്ചിനീയർവകുപ്പിലേക്കു തുച്ഛമായ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഇങ്ങനെ ഉപ്പിൽനിന്നും യാദൃച്ഛികമായി കിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള രൂപായും, ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിലേക്കു കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ള രൂപായും കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ൻറ്റ ലക്ഷം രൂപായിൽപരം വരുന്നു. ഇതിൽനിന്നും ൻവ്യലേക്കു നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടെന്ന് അഭിമാനിക്കുന്നതുകുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൻവ്യ-ൽ രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ കുറവിൽ അവസാനിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്.

ഫാമിൻ-ൽ നഷ്ട ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വരുമെന്നാണ് പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം സംകല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇഞ്ചിനീയർമരാമത്തിലെ ചിലവിൽ ഫാമിനിൽനിന്നും ഫാമിൻ-ൽ ഫണ്ടു ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ കുറവായിട്ടാണ് ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏറ്റവും പ്രയോജനകരമായ Medical and Sanitary, Industries ഈ വകുപ്പുകളിൽ ഫാമിൻവ്യ-നെക്കാൾ ഫാമിൻ-ൽ ചിലവുകുറവായികാണുന്നു. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ കഴിഞ്ഞവെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള സീമാതീതമായ കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങളാൽ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പല ഇനങ്ങളിലും വരവുകുറഞ്ഞുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. Financial Secretary സംശയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ഫാമിൻ-ലും വരവിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവു വന്നുചേരുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന് ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നുചേരുന്ന ഒരിതകാവങ്ങളിൽ വരവുചിലവുകളെ ക്രമീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ള പലേ ഇനങ്ങളിലേയും ചിലവുകളെ ഉടനെതന്നെ നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്ന ഭരണക്രമം ഒരു നല്ല നയത്തോടുകൂടിയതാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ നിർവാഹമില്ലാത്തതാണു.

രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവുചിലവുകളുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഫാമിനുമുതൽ ഇങ്ങനെയിരിക്കേ ൨൦൦൫മത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു നമ്മുടെധനസ്ഥിതിയുടെ അടിയുറപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി ശങ്കിക്കാൻ യാതൊരുകാരണവും ഇല്ലെന്നാണ്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി സമാധാനപ്പെടാനോ സന്തോഷപ്പെടാനോ അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ഫാമിൻ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ്, Financial Secretary നിയമസഭയിൽ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"In my speech last year I gave a brief review of our financial position and I expressed the view that our financial outlook was not a gloomy one. Our State has, so far, by its cautious and prudential policy, escaped the common fate of most other Governments and has been able to balance its budgets without having either 'to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure."

ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണഗതികളെ നിർദ്ദാക്ഷിണ്യമായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു Financial Secretary യുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിന്റെ ഈ ഭാഗം ശരിയല്ലെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളിൽ നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ ഭരണം നിർവ്വഹിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായിപറയുന്ന കാലത്തുതന്നെ ചന്തകരംകൂടെ അന്തിക്കടകരംകൂടെ ഫീസുകൂടെ. പുതുവൽനിയമത്തെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി. ഇടക്കാലത്തു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായ തറവില, തടിവില, കരം ഇവയെ വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു അതുപോലെതന്നെ തടികളുടെ താരിപ്പുവിലകളെ വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. ആദായനികുതി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. അഞ്ചൽനിരക്കുകളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ ഫീസു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. കോടതികളിൽ പകപ്പെഴുത്തു ഫീസു, നടപടിഫീസു് ഇവവർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. പുകയിലയിലെ തീരുവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. മുക്കങ്ങളും മുക്കുസ്ഥലങ്ങളും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു. ഇങ്ങനെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ വഴികളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. Financial Secretary യുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ മറ്റൊരുഭാഗത്തിൽ കാണുന്നത് ന്യായമായ ചിലവുകളിൽ കുറവു വരുത്തീട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ്. ൧൯൨൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൦വുൻ-ൽ ഇഞ്ചിനീയർമരാമത്തു വകുപ്പിലേക്കു നമ്മ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ൧൯൨൬ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായ ൧൦൨൨-ൽ അത് ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപായായി കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഒരു കോടിയിൽപരം രൂപാവരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൦൨൩-ൽ നമ്മ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമത്തിലേക്കു് അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നത്, ൧൯൨൪ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൦൨൫-ൽ ഒന്പതു ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായായി കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവിനു മതിയാകാതെവരുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഇതുവകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവുകളെ കുറച്ചു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു ചിലവുകളെ ക്രമീകരിച്ചു കാണിച്ചുവരുന്ന പതിവ് ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണത്തിൽ സാധാരണയായി കണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഒരു നയമാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്തോറും ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവിനുള്ള തുപാ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം അതിനെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരിക്കലും സ്വീകാരയോഗ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ൧൦൯-ലെ ബഡ്ജറു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയതോടുകൂടിയുണ്ടായFinancial Secretary യുടെപ്രസംഗത്തിൽഒരുഭാഗത്ത് ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:—

"We are abandoning extravagant designs in buildings and have diverted as much expenditure as possible from buildings to communications and other works of public utility."

ഇതിന്റെ പരമാർത്ഥം എങ്ങിനെ ഇരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുകൂടി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ആണ്ടു	കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾക്കു ചിലവുതുപാ.	ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു ചിലവുതുപാ.
൧൦൯	൩൯,൯൩,൩൩൩.	൧൩൩,൦൪,൭൧൬.
൧൦൯൨	൪,൨൨,൭൨൪.	൧൩൩,൯൪,൪൭൦
൧൦൯൯	൪,൯൭,൦൦൦.	൧൪,൨൭,൦൦൦
൧൧൦൦	൪,൧൯,൯൯൦.	൧൪,൪൪,൭൨൦

൧൦൯-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൦൯൨-ൽ കെട്ടിടവേലകൾക്കുള്ള ചിലവിൽ ൨,൩൪,൩൪൯ തുപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതേ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ Financial Secretary യുടെപ്രസംഗത്തിൽപറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ കെട്ടിടവേലകളിലുള്ള പണത്തെ കുറച്ചിട്ടു ഗതാഗത വേലകൾക്കു കൂട്ടുന്നതിനു പകരം ൭൯-ൽ നിന്നു ൭൯൨-ൽ ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു ൨,൧൦,൧൭൭ തുപാ കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ൧൦൯൭-ലും, ൧൦൯൮-ലും ഉള്ള കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ കെട്ടിടവേലകളിൽ ൧,൭൨,൭൨൨ തുപായും ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ ൧,൩൮,൭൭൭ തുപായും കുറയ്ക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ൧൦൯൭-ലേയും ൧൧൦൦-ലേയും ബഡ്ജറുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ കെട്ടിടവേലകളിൽ ൨,൭൯,൯൩൩ തുപായും, ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ ൧,൩൮,൯൩൨ തുപായും കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ സംഗതികളിലും പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രവൃത്തികൾക്കും തമ്മിൽ യോജിപ്പില്ലെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

രാജ്യത്തേക്ക് അപ്രതീക്ഷിതമായി വന്നുചേരുന്ന ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങുന്നതിന് ഓരോ വർഷവും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽനിന്നും ചിലവുകഴിച്ച് ഒരു തുക നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു Senior Account Officer മിസ്റ്റർജാക്ക്സ് ഫ ൦ ൻ വു-ലേക്കുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ Appropriation Report-ൽ സമ്മതിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ കുറേക്കാലമായി ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടി വേണ്ടപോലെ പതിയുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു വ്യക്തമായി വിവരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ തെളിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ആണ്ടു	രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവു രൂപാ	നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു രൂപാ	
ഫ ൦ ൯ ൭	൪൯,൭൨,൯൭൨	൯൦,൫൨,൦൯൦	രൂപാനീക്കിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.
ഫ ൦ ൭൯	൯൯,൦൬,൦൯൪	൬,൦൨,൦൭,൯൯൨	രൂപായായിവർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.
ഫ ൦ ൯൯	൬,൯൪,൫൯,൪൯൬	൯൯,൯൯,൫൯൦	രൂപായായികുറയാൻ ഇടയായി
ഫ ൦ ൯൪	൬,൫൪,൯൭,൯൨൦	൯൯൭,൯൯,൦൯൭	രൂപായായിവർദ്ധിച്ചു എങ്കിലും
ഫ ൦ ൯൫	൬,൯൪,൫൭,൬൭൭	൯൯൯,൦൭,൨൯൨	രൂപായായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.
ഫ ൦ ൯൯	൨,൦൩,൪൨,൬൦൦	൭൦,൫൯,൭൯൯	രൂപായായിസ്വല്പംവർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

കോതയാർ വേലകൾ ആദ്യമായി തുടങ്ങിയത് ഫ ൦ ൭ ൦-ലാണ്. ഫ ൦ ൭ ൦-ലെ വരവു വ ൪ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും, ആ ആണ്ടിൽ ഖജനാവിലെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വൻ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപായും ആയിരുന്നു. ആ കാലത്ത് ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു ഖജനാവിൽ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ കോതയാർ വേലകൾ തുടങ്ങുന്നതിന് അന്നത്തെ ഗവർമെൻറിനു ധൈര്യമുണ്ടാകുമായിരുന്നു എന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവുകൊണ്ട് എങ്ങിനെയെങ്കിലും കഴിച്ചു ചിലവു കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുകയും അധികച്ചിലവു വരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന നയമാണ് അന്നത്തെ ഗവർമെൻറു സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നത് എങ്കിൽ കോതയാറിലെ വെള്ളം ഇന്നും സമുദ്രത്തിൽതന്നെ ഒഴുകിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഏറ്റവും പ്രയോജനകരങ്ങളായ വമ്പിയ വേലകളെ ഇപ്പോൾ കയ്യേല്ക്കാൻ ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതി അനുകൂലമായിട്ടല്ല നിൽക്കുന്നതു. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ University scheme, Adirapalli scheme, Railway, ഇങ്ങനേയുള്ള പലേസംഗതികളും ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ ഗൌരവമായ ആലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവർമെൻറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ ധനസ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഈ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

കായ്ങ്ങൾ നിറ്റ്വഹിച്ചു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണം കടം വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായി തന്നെയിരിക്കുന്നു. Debenture കടങ്ങളുടെ ഫലം എന്താണെന്ന് ഇന്നത്തെ മൈസൂർ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നതു എല്ലാ നാട്ടരാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരു പാഠമായി കരുതാവുന്നതാണ്. അവിടെ വലിയ വേലകൾക്കായി വാങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള കടങ്ങൾ തീർത്തുവരുന്നതിനു ആണ്ടുതോറും രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവിൽനിന്നും ൪൨ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ പ്രത്യേകം നീക്കി വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ അവർ ആണ്ടുതോറും പൊതുമുതലിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ടപോലെ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, ആ വലിയ വേലകൾ തീർന്നുകിട്ടുന്നതിനു ഇനിയും വലുതായ തുകകൾ കടം വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് അവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ മൈസൂർ Assembly യിൽ അവിടത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"The revenues of Indian States are of an inelastic character. There is little scope for the expansion of normal revenues and the addition of new sources".

ഈ അഭിപ്രായം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിനും വളരെ യോജിപ്പായിട്ടാണ് നിൽക്കുന്നത്. അതിനാൽ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുധനത്തെപ്പറ്റി പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്കർഷയോടുകൂടി ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

മൈസൂർ അസെംബ്ലിയിൽ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ ഉപക്രമപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയൊരുഭാഗം കാണുന്നു:

"The important principle in the financial policy then formulated was that the different kinds of resources should be classified according to their nature so that each class of revenue might provide for all reasonable demands against it. Items of revenue occasionally received should not be mixed up with the normal revenues of the State and uncertain revenues should only be used for non-recurring charges".

ഇവിടത്തെ വരവുചിലവുകണക്കുകളുടെ സ്ഥിതികൾ അങ്ങനെയല്ല കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു. യാദൃച്ഛികമായും, അസ്ഥിരമായും ഉള്ള വരവുകളെ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ സ്ഥിരമായ വരവുകളോടുകൂടിച്ചേർത്ത് ആ തോതിനു ചിലവുകളെ നിശ്ചയിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി പറയുന്നതായാൽ പുതുവൽ പതിവിലെ വരവു ക്രമേണ നാമാവശേഷമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് ഏതെങ്കിലും മറ്റു വഴികളിൽ വരവുണ്ടാകേണ്ടതായിത്തന്നെവരും. ഇവിടത്തെ വരവുചിലവുകളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ രീതികൾക്ക് ഏതെങ്കിലും ഇനങ്ങളിൽ വരവു കുറയുമ്പോൾ ആ ആണ്ടിൽ deficit വരികയൊ അല്ലാ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ത്തപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ വഴികളിലുള്ള ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കയൊ ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ നയം ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പലേ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെയും ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതാണ്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ദുരിതങ്ങളേയും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്കൊടുക്കേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങളേയും, ഇതിലേക്കു മറെറാരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അത്യാപത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടപോലെ അനുകമ്പ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കയും, അവക്കു വേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്വാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് തയ്യാറായിരിക്കയുംചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നിരുന്നാലും ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായവിധം പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് വിഷമിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്. വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു മൂന്നു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായി Financial Secretaryയുടെ ഇന്നലത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നു. ഫ്ര ാ ാ -ാമാണ്ടത്തേയ്ക്കു ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിനു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൻ്ൻ,ൻ ാ രൂപായോടു കൂടി ഇപ്പോൾ വിശേഷാൽ ചിലവിന് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുകകൂടി ചേർക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൻ ൻ,ൻ ൻ ാ രൂപാ വരുന്നു. ഈ തുക ഒരു സാധാരണ വർഷമായ ഫ ാ വ് ൻ-ലേക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൻ ർ,ൻ ൻ,ന്ൻ ൻ രൂപായിൽനിന്നും ഫ,ൻ വ, ൻ വ് ൻ രൂപാ കുറവായിട്ടാണ് നിൽക്കുന്നതു. ഇതുകൊണ്ട് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അവസരങ്ങളിൽപോലും കൂടുതൽ തുക അനുവദിക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കോശസ്ഥിതി വിഷമങ്ങളെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിതീർക്കുന്നതായി കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഖജനാവിലെ ഇന്നത്തെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു നമ്മുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ധാരാളം മതിയാകുമെന്നാണ് Financial Secretary പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തിന്റെ സാധുത്വം എങ്ങിനെതന്നെയിരുന്നാലും ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അപ്രതീക്ഷിതവും ക്രമാതീതവുമായ ആപത്തിൽനിന്നും അവരെ രക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തിവിടുന്നതിന് എത്രതന്നെ ചിലവു വേണ്ടിവന്നിരുന്നാലും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് പൂർണ്ണമനസ്സോടുകൂടി തയ്യാറാവുകതന്നെയാണ് വേണ്ടതു. ജനങ്ങളെ അവരുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ കഷ്ടതകളിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനായി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും സിൽബന്ധികളും വേണ്ടിവരുന്നതാണെന്ന് ഇന്നലെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Financial Secretary പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ സിൽബന്ധികൾക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്ന പണം ജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയ്ക്കായി ചിലവാക്കുകയാണ് വേണ്ടത്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതിൽ സംബന്ധപ്പെടുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്ക് അവരുടെ സാധാരണ ജോലിയോടുകൂടി ഈ ജോലികൂടി വഹിക്കുന്നത് ശ്രമാവഹമായി തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അതിലേയ്ക്കായി രാപകൽ വേല ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് അവരുടെ കടമയെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിലേക്കു ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വമായി തയ്യാറുള്ള അനവധി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇന്നത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നത്.

ഇതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു മറെറാരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് ജനങ്ങളുടെരക്ഷയ്ക്കായി വിശേഷാൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തെ വേറെ വിധത്തിൽ വിനിയോഗിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി പലരും പല വിധത്തിലുള്ള ശിപാർശകളോടുകൂടി തയ്യാറായി വരുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളെ ഈ ദുരിതത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിലെങ്കിലും ജനസമ്മതന്മാരും മനുഷ്യരോടു കരുണയുള്ളവരും അവരുടെ കഷ്ടതകളിൽ നിർവ്യാജം സഹകരിക്കുന്നവരും സത്യസന്ധന്മാരും ആയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ എത്രയോ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്.

വേറൊരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു, വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പലേ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നെൽകൃഷിക്കു വലുതായ ദോഷങ്ങൾ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ വിളവുദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ വാസ്തവമായി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളെ ഭ്രനികൃതിയിൽ വലുതായ ദോഷമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു കരുതി ന്യായമായി കണക്കാക്കാതെ ഏതാനും നിലങ്ങൾക്കുമാത്രം കരം കുറവെഴുതണമെന്നു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ശിപാർശചെയ്യുന്നതു് സാധാരണമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ അവർ ചെയ്യുന്ന ശിപാർശകൾക്കുപോലും അധികൃതന്മാർ സമയാസമയങ്ങളിൽ മറുപടി കൊടുക്കാതേയും അതിനെപ്പററി തീരുമാനിച്ചു് ഉത്തരവുകൊടുക്കാതേയും ഇരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വലുതായ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിനെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തത്രുപേണ തെളിയിക്കാം. കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ടിൽ വിളവംകോട്ടതാലൂക്കിൽ കുഴത്തുറ ആറിലെ വെള്ളം കയറി നെൽകൃഷിക്കു വലുതായ ദോഷങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകാൻ ഇടയായി. അതിൽ ഏതാനും

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr, T. Kumara Pillai.]

നിലങ്ങൾക്കു കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു തഹശീൽദാർ ശിപാർശചെയ്തു. അതനുസരിച്ചു കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള പൂർണ്ണ വിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി അതിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർ കാത്തിരുന്നു. കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ട സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഉത്തരവു, കരം തീരുവ്കാലങ്ങളിൽ കിട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് അവരോടു മുറപ്രകാരം നടപടിനടത്തി കരം ഈടാക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. ഇതിനാൽ അവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാർ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുള്ള സങ്കടം പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ അവരിൽനിന്നും കരം ഈടാക്കിയതിൽപിന്നീടു കരം കുറവെഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു സ്ഥലം തഹശീൽദാർക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഉത്തരവു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിൽ മേൽ വിവരിച്ചമാതിരി കാലതാമസത്തിനും അതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു അന്യായമായ സങ്കടത്തിനും ഇടയാക്കാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്കർഷകാം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മേലാൽ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും അധികമായി ആശിക്കാൻ സൌകര്യമില്ലെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ്തന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അതോടുകൂടി ഉപ്പിൻെറ വില പഴയ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ എത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഇനി ആയതു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരാൻ തരമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസിലെ വരവു ക്രമേണ കുറഞ്ഞുവരുവാനേ തരമുള്ളൂ. ഭൂനികുതിയിൽ പുതുവൽ പതിവിൻെറ വരവു ന്യായമായും സ്വാഭാവികമായും കുറഞ്ഞുവരികതന്നെ ചെയ്യും. ഇങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുകാം സാധിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ധനസ്ഥിതി ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നുചേരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു ഫിനാൻസു-ലെ Appropriation report-ൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ് രണ്ടു വഴികളാണ് നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതായത് രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും, ചിലവുകളെ കഴിയുംവിധം ചുരുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ്. വരവിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ അറിവില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഇനിയും അവരുടെ നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ദിവസേന പൊൻമുട്ടയിടുന്ന താറാവിനെ കൊന്ന് ഒന്നിച്ചും ഒന്നായും പൊൻമുട്ടകളെ എടുക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന നയമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താതെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വർദ്ധി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ട്ടിക്കാനുള്ള വഴികളിലാണ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടത്.

ജനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താതെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു വർദ്ധിച്ചുകിട്ടാനുള്ള ഒരു വഴി ഇറക്കുമതിയും, കയറുമതിയും ചുങ്കങ്ങൾ മുഖേനയാണ്. ഫാറിൻ വ്യാപാരത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുന്ന വർക്ക് വിലയുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിന് ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ചുങ്കം വകയിൽ കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള തുക ഫ്രവ്വൻവുന്ന രൂപാമാത്രമാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതേ അണ്ടിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും വ്യാപാരത്തിനായി വിലക്കുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ കയറുമതിചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിനു ചുങ്കംവകയിൽ വന്നുഫവ്വർ രൂപാ തീരുവയിൽകിട്ടിയിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇവിടെ കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ഇറക്കുമതിയും കയറുമതിയും തീരുവകൾക്ക് ഒരു സാമ്യവുമില്ലാതെയാണ് ഇരിക്കുന്നത്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറുമായി ഫാർ-ൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള Interportal Convention പ്രകാരം അന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള, ർ൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാതന്നെ ഇന്നും വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായിവന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇറക്കുമതി തീരുവയിൽ ഇത്രവളരെ കുറവുണ്ടാകാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറുമായി എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ നടത്തി ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്ക് അനുരൂപമായ നിലയിൽ Interportal Convention—നെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതു ഇവിടത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കടമയാകുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിനു ഗണ്യമായ വർദ്ധനയുണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്.

കയറുമതിയുടെ സംഗതിയിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും പുറമേ പോകുന്ന സാമാനങ്ങളും അതിന്റെ തീരുവകളും ആണ്ടുതോറും സ്വാഭാവികമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുവാനേ തരമുള്ളൂ.

1090 - ൽ 10,89,676 രൂപാ കയറുമതി തീരുവയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു
1095 - ൽ 17,24,232 രൂപായായും
1097 - ൽ 24,56,079 രൂപായായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

എന്നാൽ 1099 - ൽ അത് 23,37,600 രൂപായായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതായത് 1097 - ൽ നിന്നും 1099 - ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ 1,18,479 രൂപാ കുറകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്.

ഇങ്ങനെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കുറവു, തെങ്ങിന്റെ കായ്ഫലം കുറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ ആ ഇനത്തിലുള്ള കയറുമതി കുറയുകനിമിത്തമെന്നാണ്

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai]

എക്സൈസു കമ്മിഷണർ സമാധാനം പറയുന്നതു. ഈ സമാധാനം ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. 1098-ൽ തെങ്ങുകൾക്കു കാഫലം കുറവാണെന്നു പറവാൻ എക്സൈസു കമ്മിഷണർക്ക് എങ്ങനെ സാധിച്ചു എന്നുള്ളതു അറിയാൻ വഴിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കുറവിന് തെങ്ങിന്റെ കാഫലത്തെ കുറവം പറയുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ചുങ്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിന്റെയും അവിടത്തെ ഭരണത്തിന്റെയും ദോഷമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതു പരമാർത്ഥമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ചുങ്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ വരവിനു വലുതായ ദോഷം നേരിടത്തക്കവണ്ണം പലേ അഴിമതികളും നടന്നുവരുന്നതായ സംഗതി ആരാലും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അരുക്കുറ്റി ചുങ്കവഴി തീരുവതീർക്കാതെ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചതിൽ ഉണ്ടായ കേസ്സും അതുസംബന്ധമായ നടപടികളും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ തീരുമാനവും ഇതിലേക്കു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമാണ്. അതുപോലെതന്നെ കൊല്ലം (Land Customs) ചെക്കവഴി തീരുവതീർക്കാതെ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ കൊണ്ടുപോയതിനെപ്പറ്റി നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ ആദ്യം അങ്ങനെ കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടില്ലെന്നുപറകയും, വീണ്ടും ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ കൊണ്ടുപോയ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയിൽ ഏതാനും ഭാഗത്തിനു തീരുവ തീർത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചുങ്കസ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ ഭരണം ഇങ്ങനെ അഴിമതികളോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ നടത്തിപോരികയും അതിനെ ശരിയാക്കി ഭരിക്കാൻ ആ വകുപ്പിൽ അനുഭവപരിജ്ഞാനം ശേഷിമാന്യമായ ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനില്ലാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങാൻ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വീണ്ടും നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായിതന്നെ വരുന്നതാണ്.

British Indian Ports വഴി കയറുമതി ചെയ്യുന്ന നമ്മുടെ തേയിലയ്ക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ചുങ്കത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഒന്നുപകുതി ബ്രട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥ ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റുകാലത്ത് ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും കാണുന്നത് ഈ കരാറു മുമ്പെ ചെയ്തുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും, അതുമൂലം തേയിലകൃഷിയുടെ രക്ഷയെക്കരുതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും ആണ്. ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഒരുകാലത്തു ചെയ്തുപോയിട്ടുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ അബദ്ധമുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ അതിനെ സുബദ്ധമാക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കടമയാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ തേയിലയ്ക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

തീരുവ മുഴുവൻ ഇവിടത്തേക്കുതന്നെ കിട്ടണമെന്ന് ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോട് ചോദിക്കയും വാങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ തേയിലക്കൃഷിയുടെ രക്ഷക്കോ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കോ യാതൊരു ദോഷവും വന്നുപോകുന്നതല്ല. ഇത്തരം ന്യായമായ സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറുമായി എഴുത്തുകുത്തുകൾ നടത്തി രാജ്യത്തേക്കു ന്യായമായ ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഓരോ കാലത്തേയും ദിവാൻജിമാർ പിന്മാറിനില്ക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. രാജ്യത്തേക്കു വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ഇത്തരം സംഗതികളിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളിൽ നികുതി വർദ്ധനയുണ്ടാക്കുകയല്ലാതെ ഗത്യന്തരമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് ഇനി നോക്കേണ്ടതു. ഫാർമ്പ-ൽ നിന്നും ഫാർവ്വ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ൪൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപായിൽ നിന്നും ൪൮ ½ ലക്ഷം രൂപായായും office contingencies വകയിൽ ൫൭ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ നിന്നും ൫൮ ½ ലക്ഷം രൂപായായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് ഫാർവ്വ-ലെ Appropriation report ൽ നിന്നും കാണുന്നതു. Travelling allowances വകയിൽ ൯൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ മാത്രമേ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ അതിന്റെ അകത്തുക എത്രയാണെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ൫൭ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ വരുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്.

I am open to correction. I do not know the exact figures.

Mr. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, may I correct the member? Last year the total expenditure under T. A. was only Rs. 4,23,000.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I am thankful for the correction.

രണ്ടു കോടിയോളം രൂപാ വരവുള്ള ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് ഇത്രയും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വളരെ ക്രൂരതലാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി മിസ്റ്റർ ജാർജ് മനസ്സാലെ സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളുടെ വർദ്ധനകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന വഴികളിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ പണം ചിലവാക്കാനില്ലാതെവരുന്നതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യപ്പെടുവാനില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ ചുരുക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗത്തെ കുറയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ നൂതനമായ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

മറൊരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗം ഉടനെ നിമ്മിക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ ദിവാൻജിമാരുടെയും കാലത്തുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളാലും ശമ്പള സ്കെയിലുകളാലും ഓരോ അണ്ടിലും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരാനേ തരമുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങനെ സീമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾക്കു ന്യായമായ നില കിട്ടുവാൻ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തമായ ശതമാനം ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾക്കായി നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നകാലത്തുമാത്രമേ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു. ഇതിലേക്കു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ സമ്മതം ഒരിക്കലും ഗവർമെൻറിനു കിട്ടുന്നതല്ല. അവരുടെ സമ്മതമില്ലാതെ അതിലേക്കു ഗവർമെൻറു തയ്യാറാകുമെന്നും തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ ആഫീസു മാനേജരെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ൻവ-ൈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ്സിൻെറ വാങ്ങളെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ആഫീസുമാനേജർ ഇല്ലാതെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ ഉദ്യോഗം ഭരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ലെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നതാണ്. ആ ഉദ്യോഗം നിറുത്തിയതിൽപിന്നീട മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ്സിൻെറ ഭരണത്തിനു കുറവൊ കുട്ടതലൊ വരുത്താതെ നടന്നുപോരികതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർമെൻറു പറയുന്നതായ സമാധാനം കായ്ക്ഷമതയുള്ളവേണ്ടീട്ടെന്നാണ്.

PRESIDENT: You have taken more than twenty minutes.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Shall I stop?

PRESIDENT: What further time would you require?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Five minutes.

PRESIDENT: Yes; you may proceed.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾക്കു അനുരൂപമായവിധം ഭരണകായ്ക്ഷമത കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുപറയാൻ എനിക്കു മടിതോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇടക്കാലം മുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായി മേൽനോട്ടത്തിനു വലിയ ശമ്പളങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചു എന്നല്ലാതെ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്നവരുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറകയാണു ചെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളുടേയും ഭരണകുഴപ്പങ്ങളെപ്പററി നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചോദ്യങ്ങളും അവയ്ക്കു കിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളും അതോടുകൂടിയുള്ള സ്റ്റേറുമെൻറുകളും പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ കായ്ക്ഷമതയുടെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതാനും പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിലുള്ള കൈക്കൂലി മുതലായ അഴിമതികളും കുറയ്ക്കുവാണ് വേണ്ടത്. ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ കുറവുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാമെങ്കിലും മറു ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ അതുതന്നെ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്.

ഇതുകൂടി വലുതായ ഒരു തുക ശമ്പളങ്ങൾക്കായി ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്ന ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിൽ കൈക്കൂലി മുതലായ അഴിമതികളുടെ സ്ഥിതി എങ്ങിനെ നിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് ഇനി നോക്കേണ്ടത്. കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പററി മിക്കവാറും ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭകളിൽ ഒട്ടുവളരെ മെംബറന്മാർ പ്രതിവാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു വിഷയമാണ്. ഫസ്റ്റ്-ാമത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭയിൽ കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പററി എട്ടു മെംബറന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:-

"Until people themselves are bold enough to come forward and denounce bad officials, Government and the hi h officers of Government can do very little to put down corruption. I have known in more backward tracts in the Madras Presidency hundreds of people coming forward to denounce bad officials. This is not a backward country; this is not a country where people are afraid of coming forward and speaking out openly their grievances. Until the people co-operate with Government by giving specific instances and affording proof, it is not possible for Government to put down corruption. If such proof is forthcoming, Government will not be lagging behind to put down corruption, by instituting judicial enquiries and severely punishing those proved at these enquiries to be corrupt. I do not think Government are helped very much by vague statements couched in very strong language of corruption, inefficiency and so on."

ഈ വാക്കുകളുടെ വാസ്തവത്തെയും, അതിന്മേലുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികളുടേയും ഫലം എന്താണെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കാം. ഇംഗ്ലീഷുവർഷം ഫസ്റ്റ് ഫെബ്രുവരി മാസം 1 വ്യാഴാഴ്ച കൂടിയ നിയമസഭയിൽവച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ള ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു ചോദ്യം ചോദിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മറുപടിപറകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

Question VIII. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article in the "Conch" dated 11th June 1921, regarding the corruption of Excise Officers in North Travancore and especially in the Arukutty Circle? If so, have the Government taken any action thereon?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report of Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi, District Superintendent of Police, which is referred to in the leading article?

Answer (*a*) Yes. The Government have enquired and satisfied that the allegations made are, in the main, unfounded.

(*b*) Government do not propose to place on the tabl the report referred to.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

കത്തിപ്പണത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും അതുസംബന്ധമായുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ചെത്തുകാരുടെ പണിമുടക്കത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാവുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഈ മറുപടി ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അശേഷം തൃപ്തിയാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ആ കാലംമുതൽ ഇതുവരെ നിയമസഭയിൽ ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി പലെ രൂപത്തിലും ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കാൻ ഇടവന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളിൽനിന്നും ഓരോ ചെത്തുകാരോടും ഫീസ് രൂപാവീതം കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്ന വിവരം എക്സൈസു കമ്മിഷണരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ചു മെസ്സേഴ്സ് പത്മനാഭൻതമ്പി, ഗോമതിനായകംപിള്ള ഇവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. കത്തിപ്പണം വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അന്നത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ Censure ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ഇതെല്ലാം ഗവർൺമെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിലും കത്തിപ്പണത്തെപ്പറ്റി ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ വരുമ്പോൾ ഫൈനൽ ജൂലായി 22 വരെ മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ളയ്ക്ക് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടി നോക്കാനാണ് പറയുന്നത്.

അരുക്കുറ്റി സർക്കിളിൽനിന്നും ചെത്തുകാരോട് മാസം ഫീസ് രൂപാവീതം കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതായി അന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ഗവർൺമെൻറിലേക്കു എഴുതിഅയച്ചതിനു ശിക്ഷ കൊടുത്തതു censure ചെയ്തയായിരുന്നു.

ഇഞ്ചിനീയർവകുപ്പിലെ സെക്ഷൺ ആഫീസർ മി. ഒ. എസ്. രാമൻപിള്ള അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു ബില്ലിൻപ്രകാരം പണം കൊടുത്തിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിലേക്ക് നൂറു രൂപാ നഷ്ടം വന്നേക്കുമായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ള കുറ്റത്തിനു രണ്ടുവർഷംസസ്പെൻഡു ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിന്റെ അഭിമാനത്തെ പുലർത്തുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഈ ശിക്ഷ ന്യായംതന്നെ എന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു.

അരുക്കുറ്റിയിലെ എക്സൈസു കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലെ പണിയിൽ ഫ്ലൂ ഇഞ്ചു concrete ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുപകരം ആറു ഇഞ്ചുഘനത്തിൽ concrete ചെയ്തു അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം പണം ചിലവെഴുതി അപഹരിച്ചതിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള വലുതായ നഷ്ടത്തിനു വീഴ്ചക്കാരന്റെ പേരിലുള്ള നടപടി എന്താണ് എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി പുറത്തു വരുന്നതിനു പ്രയാ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

സമായി തീന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു cantonment section ഭരിച്ചുവ ന്നിരുന്ന ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഫ ഠ ൻന്നു മുതൽ കുത്തകപ്പാട്ടംവകയിൽ പിരി ഞ്ഞപണത്തേയും, survey റിപ്പോർട്ട്പ്രകാരം വിറകിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള പണ ത്തേയും കെട്ടിവയ്ക്കാതെ അപഹരിച്ചുവച്ചിരുന്ന സംഗതിക്ക് എന്തുനട പടി നടത്തിഎന്നറിയുന്നില്ല.

M. S റോഡിൽ ഫ ഫ ാമതു മൈൽകുറ്റിക്കു സമീപം ഇടക്കാല ത്തുണ്ടായ വഷ്ത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഉടപ്പു വേലയിൽ ഒരിക്കൽ അളന്നി ട്ടുള്ള കുഴികളെ വീണ്ടും അളന്നവകയിൽ ര ഠ ഠ രൂപാവരെ നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാ ക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ച ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ എന്തുചെയ്തു എന്ന് അറിയുന്നില്ല.

ആലപ്പുഴ, മുനമ്പം ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ കാ ണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ച മിസ്റ്റർ കാ തർപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെഫലം എന്തായി എന്ന് അറിവാൻ തരമില്ല. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി നിയമസഭയിൽ പല ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടും മറുപടി ഇല്ലാതെ താണിരിക്കുന്നത്.

കൊല്ലത്തഹശീൽദാർ മി.എ. എസ്സ്. കൃഷ്ണയ്യരുടെമേൽ കൈക്കൂ ലിക്കുറ്റം ആരോപിച്ച ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരും Land Revenue Commissioner ഗവർൺമെൻറിനറിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്തതിന്റെ ഫലമായിതീന്നതു അദ്ദേഹത്തി ന്റെ സർവീസുപുസ്തകത്തിൽ ഈ സംഗതി നോട്ടുചെയ്തുയായിരുന്നു.

മേൽവിവരിച്ച ദുഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു കുറങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ശിക്ഷ അ ളുകളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുമെന്നു പലരും സംശയിച്ചുപോകുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ യല്ലാതെ കുറത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിപോലെ അവരുടെമേൽ ഒരു "judicial enquiry" നടത്തിവരുന്നതായോ, അവരെ കഠിനമായി ശിക്ഷി ച്ചു വരുന്നതായൊ കാണുന്നില്ല. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ പബ്ലിക്ക്സർവീസി ലുള്ള ചീത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നതിനൊ, അതിലേക്കു തെളിവുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനോ ജനങ്ങൾ മുമ്പിട്ടുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം നിലക്കത്തക്കതായിതോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സമ്പാദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് അവർ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഗ വർണ്മെൻറിന് അയയ്ക്കുന്ന Property statements നെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും നിഷ്കൃഷ്ടയായി പരിശോധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ അ ഴിമതികൾക്കും കുറവുവരുന്നതാണ്. ശമ്പളംകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുകഴിക്കാൻ പ്ര യാസമായും, തന്റെ സ്വന്ത കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ അറകുറവേലകൾ തീർക്കാൻ കടംവാങ്ങേണ്ടതായും വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഒരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ, അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ഉദ്യോ ഗക്കയറ്റം കിട്ടിയതോടുകൂടി "Alladin and the Wonderful Lamp" എ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ന്നുള്ള കഥാഗതിപോലെ പണക്കാരനായിത്തീരുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾക്കും നടപടികൾക്കും ജനങ്ങളുടെ സഹായവും സഹകരണവും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആണ്ടുതോറും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് അയക്കുന്ന Property statement കൾ പ്രൈവറായി വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

Property statements അതുപോലെയുള്ള മറ്റുപലേസംഗതികളും തുറന്ന കോടതികളിൽ പറയുന്നതിനു അനുവദിക്കാമെങ്കിൽ നിയമസഭയിലും, അതിലെ മെംബറന്മാരിലുംനിന്നു മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിവാൻ അവകാശമുള്ള ഇത്തരം സംഗതികളെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് മറച്ചുവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പേരിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ന്യായമായി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട ബഹുമാനം കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതും, പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിനോടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പൊതുവെ വെറുപ്പുതോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നതും സഹജമാണ്. കളങ്കരഹിതവും കാര്യക്ഷമതയോടുകൂടിയതുമായ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസു വേണമെന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങൾ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നത്. അത് അവർക്ക് ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണ്. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പേരിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ ദോഷാരോപണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ പ്രവൃത്തികളെ സാധൂകരിക്കാൻ നോക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണെന്നുള്ള തത്വത്തെ ഞാൻ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ വന്നിച്ച കൈക്കുലിക്കാരെന്നു പൂർണ്ണബോധം വന്നിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കുടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ രക്ഷയായ തണലിൽ അഭയം പ്രാപിച്ചുനിൽക്കുന്നതും അവരെ അങ്ങനെ നിറുത്തുന്നതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സഹിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത മനോവേദനയുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഏതുജാതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവനായിരുന്നാലും, ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് എന്തെല്ലാം സ്വാധീനതകൾഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് എന്തെല്ലാം ശക്തികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാലും അവയെ ഒന്നും ഗണിക്കാതെയും, രാജ്യത്തിൻെറയും അതിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെയും നന്മകളെ വിചാരിച്ചും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവീസിൽനിന്നും പിരിച്ച് അയയ്ക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നതു ഒരു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ യശസ്കരമായുള്ള ഭരണത്തിനു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ വലുതായ കളങ്കത്തെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതാണ്.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-5 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-55 P. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : We are once again engaged in the task of taking a bird's eye-view of the working of the various departments, and along with it the consideration of the various items of public revenue and expenditure. From our position of non-official detachment, we are able to see both the peaks and the depressions, so that our opinions on the general questions of administration may be entitled to a good deal of weight. That has in fact been recognised by the Government and they have been prepared to act up to our counsel times without number. I am referring to this to show that, when it is made out, by the unanimity of non-official opinion, that certain items of public expenditure are not so beneficial to the State as they would otherwise be, it is time the Government take us into their confidence and accept our recommendations.

The most essential requisite of public administration is no doubt the efficiency of the public service. Whatever may be the differences of opinion that we on this side of the House may have with regard to the efficiency of particular officers, the Government have always accepted the position that they are prepared to recognise efficiency even though it costs a good deal of money. That is a principle which commends itself to me; and when I say that the public service of Travancore is over-manned, I do not want to give up the claims of efficiency. In this very hall, Sir, time and again, both in the Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council, I have emphasised the necessity of a searching enquiry being made into the public service, to see whether so many officers are necessary, whether the Government would not be justified in making some retrenchment and whether the whole scheme of public service does not require reconsideration. I mentioned this last time, and several of my friends also have emphasised it. Whatever the Government might do in the interests of public service and in the interests of the country, so long as this general complaint is not removed, so long as the Government continue to look upon the claims of efficiency in their own manner without regard to the recommendations that we have to make, I submit, Sir, that the very same argument, the very same facts and figures, and, perhaps, by permutations and combinations, even the very same sentences may have to be repeated in the times to come. But, if Government will only take our proposals seriously, if they will enquire into the matter, if they will convince us that the items of public expenditure, the salaries disbursed to some class of officers and the expenditure on contingencies are unavoidable, we shall not certainly take the time of the Council any more than is absolutely necessary. And the Government officers also will be spared the necessity of repeating stock arguments throughout the year—whether those arguments are placed before the House at the time of the discussion of the budget or when resolutions on important matters of public interest are being discussed. It is my considered opinion, Sir, and I think I am entitled to say that, because the very question had been taken up and discussed by me during several years, both before the Council and the Assembly, I think I am justified in making the statement that retrenchment is possible in the public service, and that we need not have so many officers in the higher grades as we now have.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

In addition to that, there are very many inconsistencies of a serious nature between the pay, the powers and the distribution of the various officers in the various departments. The Division Officers, for example, in the different departments are receiving different pay and are accorded different status. The Peishkar gets a salary of Rs. 500-700; the Assistant Excise Commissioner Rs. 250-350; that is one grade, while another grade also is getting Rs. 175-225; there are various Assistant Conservators getting Rs. 200-300; Deputy Conservators are getting Rs. 300-400; the District Superintendents of Police Rs. 300-450; the Assistant Superintendents of Police Rs. 200-250; Ayurveda Inspector Rs. 40-50; Sanitary Circle Officers Rs. 80-100; Devaswom Assistant Commissioners Rs. 200-250; the Assistant Inspectors in the Education Department Rs. 125-175; and so on. With regard to the heads of departments also, there is no proper scheme. A very competent man who has a long and estimable service to his credit often gets less pay than one who is inferior to him both in character and capacity. The reason is only this—that the latter has had the good fortune of being in some department in which he got promotions in a purely automatic manner. Co-ordination and grading are therefore urgently required. I fail to see why the pay and prospects of divisional officers in the various departments should be so dissimilar. The Assistant Conservators of Forests, for example, get Rs. 250 whereas the Assistant Engineers get more than that, and the real Division Officers in the P. W. D. get very much more. The Sanitary Inspector gets only Rs. 80-100. In the Judicial Department, the Chief Justice gets Rs. 1,200, whereas the Police Commissioner gets many hundreds more. I am not one of those who think that the pay of responsible officers should be cut down; on the other hand, I am for giving them a handsome salary. Some arrangement should nevertheless be made by which officers of the very same degree of responsibility occupying similar positions in the official ladder in different departments should be put on equal salaries. I do not think, Sir, that, taking the public service into consideration, there is anything which is more imperatively necessary than this scheme being framed at the earliest opportunity. The non-officials have been pressing this matter upon the attention of the Government for the last twenty years, if I remember correct. The Government ought to get the best opinion; they ought to investigate the whole matter, examine the methods of work and come to some decision which will be acceptable to this Council and the country at large. I may also say in this connection that, without the association of proper non-official agency, Government will not be able to do this most arduous work because, in this State, every head of a department thinks that his prestige depends upon the number of his subordinates and their salaries. I am speaking from some experience of those officers. When it comes to a question of departmental re-organisation, heads of departments are anxious to exploit the situation and to tell the Government from time to time that, unless a very large addition is made to their staff, they will not be able to do their work with promptness.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government frequently accept their views as a matter of course. The result is that in about 20 or 25 years there would be large sums of money spent in a wrong direction, and more offices created than are justified by the true exigencies of public service. I therefore request the House to consider the necessity of appointing a small committee of experienced officials and experienced non-officials, which will be able to go into the whole question and decide matters with care in order that this question may not be raised as often as is being done in this Council. When a resolution on retrenchment was being discussed in this House, I addressed questions on the subject to gentlemen on the other side of the House; and I learnt that, at the time of the Salaries Committee, the work was not done in an adequate manner and therefore their conclusion was not as satisfactory as it should otherwise have been. The proposed committee should go into the whole question, visit offices, examine both officials and non-officials, and formulate definite proposals which will be valuable to the Government. The question of retrenchment has been stressed by several members and I do not want to say anything more on that. I would once more emphasise the opinion that the most important reform required is a financial reform not merely one of retrenchment but of such retrenchment as is consistent with the efficiency of the public service. It would not be enough if the Government passed their orders on the recommendations of heads of departments.

Various questions had been raised by my friends on this side of the House. Some of them were prepared to accept the position which has been stated by the Financial Secretary that, on account of the unprecedented floods, the financial estimates of this year were the result of "groping in the dark." Sir, I do not think that, after all, in spite of the great devastation occasioned by the heavy floods and in spite of the loss of property and life, we are yet "groping in the dark". I am not prepared to say that, on account of the floods, our ordinary activities should be suspended. No doubt, the Government should strain every nerve to relieve the distress of the afflicted; the non-officials also must do all that is possible to relieve distress, to make it possible for suffering humanity to take advantage of the relief afforded. But while maintaining this view, I should also maintain that, in spite of the great flood, the ordinary activities of the Government cannot but continue and that we should not stint money for necessary purposes. The Government should not incur additional expenditure in questionable or problematical lines. I think the Government will not be justified in creating additions to the number of officers. I think also, Sir, that the unsystematic development of various departments which cost large amounts of money may be suspended for the present with advantage, to be resumed when we are able to attain financial equilibrium. But, while I say that, I might also say that, in spite of the calamity, we should not stint expenditure on what is necessary; and if we have not got enough money, we ought to raise it by loans. The calamity in certain districts and certain taluks is vast; but at the same time I must say that there is no calamity worth the name in other parts of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

country and that the people who have been luckier may even pay some necessary cess. (*Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai*: *Hear, hear.*) While we ought to do our maximum for the relief of distress, we ought not to be obsessed by the expression which the Financial Secretary has used, *viz.*, that we are "groping in the dark". I fear that expression is responsible for creating a feeling in our mind that the financial situation is not sound. If, for these comparatively unimportant matters in the history of the human race, if, because of this flood, a gentleman who is on the other side of the House, who has been receiving our praises for capacity and foresight, if such an officer says that his financial estimate is a result of "groping in the dark", we, on this side of the House, may be alarmed. But the Financial Secretary like an astute man has made a qualification to this statement towards the close of his speech. I do not propose to say anything more with regard to that.

Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, who was the first speaker of the day, and for whose knowledge of politics I have respect, said that the whole trouble in North Travancore was due to the circumstances that public funds were not equitably distributed and that South Travancore was getting more than North Travancore. He said that that was the cause of the whole evil. If we were living in a country as large as the Indian Empire or the United States of America, I can understand the difference between the Southerns and the Northerns. One can understand the disputes between England and Ireland over certain questions or the disputes with regard to imperial and provincial finances in British India. But living in a small State whose length is less than two hundred miles, and whose average breadth is not much more than fifty miles, I think the interests of the southerners are not so inconsistent with those of the northerners. When we are dealing with questions of finance, let us not be influenced by narrow considerations of south and north.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai prepared to exchange places with the northerners? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has asked the question whether I am prepared to exchange places with North Travancoreans. His permanent interests are in North Travancore; but he has elected to make Trivandrum his permanent place of residence; but I shall not be able to remove to North Travancore, nor do I wish to do so. I did not say that the interests of North Travancore should be subordinated to those of South Travancore. I only say that the distinction between North and South Travancore is so irrelevant that we ought not to remember it when discussing the budget. We non-officials ought not to fight each other over this. We should not say that hitherto South Travancore was getting a large amount, much more than it deserved. If we said that, South Travancoreans like Mr. Kumara Pillai and Mr. Daniel would come

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

forward and say that they had been living in a waterless tract and contend that without artificial irrigation they cannot have anything. If we fight over such matters when dealing with the budget, we shall be defeated. (*Laughter.*) Lord Kitchener said, when he had a dispute with General French: "I came here not to fight General French but to fight the German." So let us not wrangle among ourselves over these matters, let us not create unnecessary cleavages of opinion. Let us accept the position that all Travancoreans should have the benefit of Travancore finances, in spite of the fact that North Travancore has been neglected in the matter of irrigation and roads, and in spite also of the fact that South Travancoreans have been getting something during all these years. You do not think of levelling down things, you do not propose to abolish all vested rights; you are only for improving yourself consistently with improving others. So, the distinction between South and North Travancore is unimportant when we discuss the budget. We non-officials ought to stand as one man in order to ask Government to find funds for pushing on with the nation-building activities, making more roads and bridges, giving agricultural and industrial loans, pushing on our education, sanitary activities etc. It would be very much better to tell the Government that we are not satisfied with the allotments made this year. If Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai or anybody else says that, till there is equality created between South and North Travancore, nothing should be done in South Travancore, I should demur to that proposition.

The Rev. Father Vettikkapalli adverted to the Devaswom Department. I propose to say something with regard to it but not on the same lines. I thought of saying that, when you send revenue officers of experience to the Devaswom Department and when they are allowed to go on in their own way without sufficient check or control by non-official opinion, acclimatising themselves to the position of safety from the public view, there would be trouble if they are again brought into the general service. But that is not Fr. Vettikkapalli's reason. He was saying that, because members of some communities were not formerly entertained in the Revenue Department, he hoped that, when a European became the head of the department, other communities would get justice. I am one of those who believe in the impartiality, stern justice and high sense of duty of the European. I have very often given expression to that opinion in this House itself, and no one will be able to shake off that feeling from me. But I cannot accept the position that anybody who is not a European should be necessarily unjust (*laughter*). I cannot agree with him when he says that it is only when a European is made the head of a department that justice may be expected. I certainly expect that Mr. Robinson would do justice. But I expect also that other people would do justice likewise. The question is not whether an Indian or a European will be more just, but whether the claims of particular communities have to be recognised. Government separated the Devaswoms from the Revenue Department for the purpose of satisfying the demands of, or rather for removing the grievances of, certain communities, which grievances were real or fancied. Having done that, if Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

propose to lay down that, until an equal distribution of appointments has been made, until all the communities who have not been given their chance are sufficiently compensated, other communities should have no claim to appointments, I am not prepared to accept that position. I am certainly for recognising the claims of these communities. But I deny the proposition that, because some communities were in an advantageous position in the past, there should now be a process of indiscriminate levelling. After all, when you probe into the idea of the elevation of the depressed classes, you will find that it is a matter which does not require much of discussion; for there is no of difference of opinion in regard to that 'Bringing the depressed classes into line with others' is the phrase which induces me to say so. The members of depressed communities who possess sufficient education, courage, energy and character should be freely entertained in the public service; but the corollary that has been sought to be deduced, *viz.*, that, because they were suffering, others should not get appointments, is too much for me to subscribe to.

With regard to the question which has been asked by my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai the other day and which has been answered by the Government about the character of public servants being questioned in newspapers, I beg to associate myself with the general opinion expressed by him. I have raised the same question in the Assembly, if I remember correct, during the time of Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair. I said then that, if a newspaper made allegations against a public servant that he was corrupt, Government should not take their stand on a high altitude of indifference. They must not say that they are not prepared to attach any weight to the allegations made in the newspapers. The papers are read by a large number of people. His Highness the Maha Raja's Government have been spending immense amounts of money on education, so that the majority of the people can read and write. These newspapers, some of which are cheap, are being distributed among them. It is apprehended that there is some corruption in the public service. I am not prepared to single out any officer as being corrupt. If a particular officer is said to be corrupt there is no reason to think that there are no others who are equally so. I am prepared to stand forth and say that, when a newspaper publishes serious allegations against an officer or a number of officers, Government have got to perform a duty. If it was an untruth that was published in the paper the public mind would be contaminated. To avoid that contamination, the best thing for the Government would be to ask the officer to prosecute the newspaper. If the officer concerned is able to vindicate his character in a court of law, that newspaper will not circulate and perhaps may cease to exist altogether. If, on the other hand, an officer is declared to be corrupt by a competent court of law, the Government should send him out on his business, because, if, in spite of all that the people say and all that the newspapers maintain, the officers are encouraged to take their stand on their inviolable position,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government will be stultifying themselves. I make it once more clear that I am not speaking with regard to any particular man or any particular allegation. I take my stand on the general proposition that if against any officer, whether high or low, allegations of clear corruption have been made in a newspaper, that officer should at once be directed to prosecute that newspaper. And if in the prosecution, the officer's case is disproved, he ought to be dealt with severely.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I shall take only a minute more.

Indirectly, it will be to the larger interests of the services and the public. It will encourage healthy journalism and improve the morale of the services.

Various other questions have been raised in the course of the discussion. But I do not propose to deal with all of them, as I may be able to discuss them at a later stage. But, for the present, I wish once more to say that the real evil is the feeling prevalent throughout the State that we have more officers than we require. It is this evil which has to be remedied. If, on the other hand, after due enquiry is made by a properly constituted committee, these officers are found necessary and funds are required for the purpose, this House will have no difficulty in allowing the demands made by the Government.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, as one coming from the area affected by the recent floods, I may be permitted to premise my observations on the budget with an expression of the gratefulness of Central and North Travancore for the prompt measures of relief taken by the Government and the further measures proposed to alleviate the distress caused by the recent floods.

The Financial Secretary opened his speech with a tale of distress that must have touched the heart of the House, and closed it with a ring of confidence in the resources of the State to weather any storm that might arise.

We would we could share his sturdy optimism, and if we strike a jarring note, it is only because of our anxiety to keep our finances fit for any contigency.

The forecast of revenue might have been eminently satisfactory but for the new factor which nobody could have foreseen. I have been entering a protest against too hopeful forecasts on previous occasions. This time I am happy to find every item kept within the bounds of reasonable probability.

Turning to the expenditure side, I regret I have to repeat my oft-repeated wail of woe. I know it is only a cry in the wilderness. We have pointed out time and again how the expenditure has been rising out of all proportion to the revenue. During a short period of three years from 1094, the expenditure has increased by over Rs. 35 lakhs. The Education Department comes in for near 20 per cent. and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

our over-manned and over-paid services account for nearly 40 per cent. of the revenue. We are aware that Government are conscious of the need for economy and retrenchment. On another occasion, the Financial Secretary opined that, in order to meet the increasing demands of the future, we have to exercise strict economy and effect all reasonable retrenchments. We come across such pious wishes and expressions frequently. The momentum already gained and the force of vested interests have been too strong. Sir, it is high time to call halt. The services are obsessed with the idea of their importance. An independent expert, untrammelled by preconceptions and prejudices, alone might be able to make fresh suggestions. We never entertained any hopes from the Salaries Committee or the Efficiency Audit Officer.

Though we are spending over Rs. 38 lakhs for education, I am afraid we are not getting our money's worth. The system is radically rotten. It is out of date. It was devised half a century ago to manufacture clerks and employees to fill the subordinate services of the East India Company. It unfits the individual for the practical affairs of life. Its ideal is purely cultural. It has been condemned by many a thinking man. A Travancore University for the existing system might only be another white elephant. Here again, the opinion of independent experts, who have first-hand information about systems of education obtaining elsewhere, should be called for, before a University is sought to be built on the existing foundations.

The commercial services are still run on uncommercial lines. The Anchal Department, which was one of the first to be re-organised and therefore one of the first to be over-paid, wants to make up its deficit by further burdens on the tax payer. It does not realise that high prices means less trade. Red-tape in commerce spells the bankruptcy court.

How under the circumstances can we find relief from petty exactions and sufficient finance for nation-building activities?

Coming to petty exactions, road-toll is one of the meanest and most vaxatious of imposts. The revenue derived is about Rs. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lakh. The income tax that has been newly imposed, and which we willingly pay, must give us immunity from such petty exactions. Services cease to pay and travel and business get curtailed.

The fine imposed on the ownership of *valloms* is another iniquitous impost. It serves no purpose but that of harassing torment. (*Hear, hear.*) I may here observe that there are very few stations where registrations of *valloms* are carried on, and the whole thing has to be done in the course of a few days. There are a number of *valloms* waiting for days and people cannot get registration of their *valloms*, so that it is really a case of harassing and vexatious torment. And after all nobody is benefited by it. There is no restriction on the ownership of *valloms* or as to what sort of *valloms* alone could be allowed to ply. The revenue is not much more than Rs. 25,000.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The major portion of the navigation receipts is derived from steam and motor launches.

Municipal imposts are the most harassing of all. One cannot own a house, carry on business, keep a dog, a bull, or a horse, or a cycle, a rickshaw or a carriage, or sell in the market, or enter the town limits otherwise than on foot, without being penalised! The only profession that has escaped municipal taxation is beggary. (*Laughter.*) And what do we get in return? A few dim lights, many of them serving as sign-posts to the residences of municipal commissioners, a little spasmodic scavenging, and any amount of municipal wrangling. Municipal administration, as at present, is mostly camouflaged fuss. This sort of *Swaraj* or Home Rule might turn the most loyal and law-abiding of lawyers into a non-co-operator. The administration that is bold enough to end or mend this well-devised sham would earn the undying gratitude of the rate-payer. If these municipalities have to be retained, I would suggest a grant from the general revenues, as against market tolls, vehicle tolls, and levies of that ilk.

As against these losses, we are prepared to forgo the advantages of the Industries Department, a boosted drone that eats up the honey in the guise of manufacture, the Photographic Department, the Archaeological Department, and kindred departments, that have yet to justify their continued existence.

Turning to trade and business, we built high hopes on the projected State-aided-Bank. There is a fatality attaching to business enterprises receiving Government help in Travancore. The Punalur Paper Mills, the M. P. M. T. and A. V. Co., and the Travancore Sugars have not been able to survive Government aid. We wait to know whether the State-aided Bank is to be a case of still-birth.

There was complaint last year about the allotment of over Rs. 13 lakhs to the South Indian Railway Co. for the purchase of rolling stock. As no fresh rolling stock has yet been put on the permanent road, it is the duty of the Government to know the reason why and whether we ought to pay for the benefit that we have not obtained.

Many of us who have been sceptical from the outset of the Cochin Harbour Scheme are glad to see that we are rid of that incubus. We hope the ghost has been laid too deep for resurrection.

In this connection, there seems to be an opinion current even among expert engineers that the continuance of the present flood was due in large measure to the closing or narrowing of the mouth of the Vembanad lake. The House might know that bunds have been put at the northern end of the Vembanad lake on the west of the island of Vendurutti, to add a few acres of land by way of reclamation, so that the waterway which might serve to take the current out into the sea has become congested. Thus the water that has been flowing down the hills could not find an escape in sufficient time, and had therefore to flood the areas in the lowlands. The matter deserves consideration; and even though Cochin is out of the jurisdiction of our Engineering Department,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. John Mackie.]

the Chief Engineer or some other responsible officer might be deputed to make a study of the subject as to whether the narrowing of the mouth of the Vembanad lake has affected the present flood.

We congratulate the Government on making a small provision towards the beginning of the survey of the Kottarakara-Ernakulam line. Let us hope to live long enough to see it materialise.

Lastly, coming to the relief problem, I would suggest that part of our sinking fund be invested in agricultural and development loans within the State, instead of being as at present taken out of the State, to be invested in British Government gilt-edged securities. Relief works may be treated as capital expenditure, in which case they need not necessarily come from current revenue and the budget may be easily balanced.

As regards the three lakhs of rupees allotted for relief works, there is a talk that half of the amount might have to be spent at Munnar, and about Rs. 50,000 at Peermade, and that only one lakh of rupees would be left to the lowlands which suffered most of all. If it is only the case of means of communication,—roads and bridges,—three lakhs of rupees might suffice. But relief also has to be considered and—relief for the people most affected by the floods. The two lakhs of rupees proposed to be spent in the High Range may be absolutely necessary to bring Devicolam and Peermade to their original condition. That may not advance the cause of the suffering people at Kuttanad and other low-lying lands where the damage is heavy. The Government have been ready to express their willingness to make further allotments whenever called upon. We only hope that the Chief Engineer will be as responsive as the Government. I cannot let this opportunity pass without bestowing a tribute upon him for the fair and even-handed way in which works have been distributed in South and North Travancore this year.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I desire, on behalf of the community I represent, to offer my sympathy to Government on the disaster that has recently befallen the State. In common with other agriculturists, tea and rubber planters have suffered a great deal especially in the High Range where the whole area of tea has been swept away, to say nothing of the loss and damage done to factories, roads and bridges.

PRESIDENT: Please speak louder.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I would take this opportunity to thank the Government for the ready assistance they gave the planters in the matter of supplying expert Supervisors to supervise the work of the temporary repairing of some of the roads—the labour having been provided by the planters—and so enabling them to bring food up to their labourers and others. If this had not been seen to promptly, it is difficult to realise what the consequences might have been.

Whilst the loss of life is deplorable and the loss of property is bound to be very hard on a section of the people, I do not think it necessary to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

take such a very pesimistic view as to the outlook, as has been done by some of the previous speakers. I am sure the natural resources of the State are such that the country will very soon recover. And we know that, under an up-to-date and charitable Government, the people will not be made to wait in the meantime.

Now, I want to say a few words regarding certain items in the budget. On the subject of forests, I have little to say; but I scarcely think the Financial Secretary is right in saying that the loss of revenue is due to the poor demand for timber. I do not know that there is any less demand than in the previous year; in fact, I might be inclined to say the demand has been greater and the reason for the receipts being less is the fact that the Conservator has stood out for higher rates. If he had sold his timber at rates which would have enabled buyers to meet other Indian and foreign competition, he would have sold more of it. From all accounts he has now little to sell due to the recent disaster. It is not business to hold up stocks. The Conservator should be prepared to take a moderate profit and be content with it. Some of his predecessors had, as we know, rather bitter experiences through sticking to their stocks.

It is certainly gratifying, as the Financial Secretary says, to see a surplus in the working of the Railway. I note he says that this is brought about by reductions in working charges and interest; and while this is so far satisfactory, I think we are entitled to some explanation as to why the first half of the year ended with a loss of Rs. 95,055 and the second half with a surplus of Rs. 1,32,540. Working charges and interest cannot have varied so in two successive half years. It is very disappointing, however, to be told again that the receipts from the railway have to remain stationary. I had something to say last year at this time regarding the inadequate supply of wagons on the Travancore Section and the great inconvenience and loss business people were put to on this account. Well, the position has not improved in the slightest. We are still clamouring for wagons to carry our goods and it is most disappointing that Government do not insist on their railway being properly furnished in this respect. I have just recently learnt that a representative of the Government has been appointed to the South Indian Railway Advisory Board and I hope that gentleman will not mind my stating that I consider it is his business to keep in touch with the users of the railway in the State and see that their requirements are attended to. He may rest assured that we will not omit to let him know of our grievances in future. Meanwhile, I would ask Government to insist that more rolling stock be supplied; and I can assure you, Sir, that receipts will not long remain stationary, if this is done, but you will very soon see your railway a very satisfactory proposition bringing you back the money you have spent on it in the past.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Sir, I wish to join the previous speakers in expressing our gratefulness to Government for what has already been done by them to relieve the distress caused by the floods and for the generous provision made in the next year's budget.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Louder, please.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I go over to the front seat?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Permit me, Sir, to express my feelings of gratefulness to Government for the prompt and vigorous measures already taken by them to alleviate the distress of the people caused by the recent floods and the very generous provision proposed to be made in the next year's budget for affording further reliefs and to facilitate the task of reconstruction. It is a matter of great consolation to the distressed population that the Government are doing all that they can. I can assure the Government that in this difficult task they can have the full sympathy and co-operation of the public. Let me, however, be permitted to point out to you, as has been pointed out by Mr. Kumara Pillai, that the Government should see that the help which they propose to give to the distressed population reaches them, and that too the really deserving section among them.

I regret I have to protest against the removal of expenditure on what is styled 'Military works' from the 'P. W. D.' to the 'Army.' This I consider—

PRESIDENT: What is your protest?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The change in classification. The transfer of the expenditure on military works from the P. W. D. to the Army, I consider, is not merely a change in classification as stated by the Financial Secretary. The alteration, it appears to me, is one by which the amount has been transferred from a votable item to a non-votable item.

PRESIDENT: It has been a non-votable item all along.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Yes, I know that. It was included in the P. W. D., *i. e.*, an item which is votable under the Regulation. In his memo, the Financial Secretary admitted that the head "Military" used to show only expenditure on account of the Nayar Brigade and the Body Guard. If this process is permitted, it is possible to concede that a good many items on P. W. D. and other items may be brought under non-votable heads. Section 11, clause (i), and Section 16, clause (i), of the Legislative Council Regulation take out of the powers of the Council only measures relating to "Our Military Forces including Nayar Brigade and Our Body Guard." Section 16, clause (vii) specifically mentions that expenditure classified under "Maramat" and 'Political" alone is removed from the cognisance of the Council in this respect. The memorandum shows that under "Military" the expenditure on Nayar Brigade and Body Guard alone was shown. If the Regulation had contemplated that works now brought under the new

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

classification "Army" should be taken out of the power of the Council, they would have been specifically excluded. Inasmuch as that has not been done, the alteration, I submit, is not warranted and is illegal.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I wish to correct the member. It is not a new thing that was done.

PRESIDENT: He says he knows that.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The removal of expenditure on Anchal from P. W. D. to Anchal Capital Account also is open to objection. If the object in so doing is, as the Financial Secretary says, to exhibit capital charges on construction of Anchal buildings, the whole of the Anchal buildings ought to have been valued and the expenditure on them for maintenance should have been brought under "Anchal", so that we may have an accurate balance sheet of the working of the Anchal Department. If this had been done, we would have given our assent to it. If such a balance sheet had been prepared, the loss in the working of that department would be found to be considerable. The effect of the change is that the account of neither the P. W. D. nor the Anchal Department is accurate.

The Financial Secretary in his speech yesterday admitted that the budget presented by him has to be revised on account of the disaster that had befallen the State; and the budget prepared by him without taking into account the new factor occasioned by this unforeseen event is necessarily defective. It is therefore profitless to offer any criticism upon such a budget. The Financial Secretary also abstained from giving any explanation as to the basis of his estimate of most of the items of revenue and expenditure. I desire, however, to make a few general observations on the financial condition of the State. The Financial Secretary has, in the concluding portion of his speech, assured us that, when our financial position is restored, it will not be found wanting either in soundness or stability. I regret I cannot entertain the same optimistic view of the situation. The budget, as usual, contains the actuals of one year, the revised estimate for the current year and the draft estimate for the ensuing year. A close scrutiny of the figures given therein and in the appropriation statement reveals to my mind two facts. Firstly they do not represent the economic condition of the people, *i. e.*, there is no correspondence between the surplus shown therein and the material condition of the people. Secondly, there has been no consistent policy in regard to the administration of the finances; our financial position is rather unstable and the outlook is not bright.

I shall, as briefly as I possibly can, explain these from the information available to me from the Administration Reports. It is seen that during the quinquennium ending with 1098 there was a surplus of Rs. 39,39,000. This was made up after setting off the deficit of Rs. 1,96,000 in 1096 and 1097. It must also be remembered that, in 1093, various extraordinary expenses had to be incurred such as the *Murajapam*, His Highness the Maha Raja's *Shastyabdapurti* and contribution to the War Fund. In the previous quinquennium, 1088 to 1092, the net surplus was Rs. 3,91,000 after setting off the deficit of Rs. 15,44,000

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

in 1089 and 1090. If these surpluses are due to the normal expansion of revenue without the imposition of any additional taxation, they may no doubt indicate increasing prosperity. The revenue settlement was concluded in 1084 and the growth of land revenue in subsequent years was mainly due to increased sale of *puduvals*. The restriction in regard to the purchase of lands by Europeans was removed in 1082. The activities of the Land Revenue Department were directed towards the rapid disposal of *puduvals* and the valuable tree-growth thereon. But in spite of all these, the expenditure had outstripped the revenue in 1089 and in 1090, the deficit being Rs. 15·44 lakhs. This was subsequently made up by the enhancement of the duty on salt in 1091 and the imposition of a duty on tea and by the reduction of non-recurring items of expenditure on public works to an undesirable extent. This reduction of expenditure has materially affected the people. In 1094 and 1095 there was abnormal increase in the value of timber on account of its demand for war purposes and also owing to other causes. This enabled the Government to balance the budget, but in 1096 and 1097 we had again deficit budgets. Hence in 1097, a tax on income had to be imposed and in 1098 we had the further enhancement of the duty on salt. We cannot overlook the fact that at the end of 1089 and 1095 there was change in the administration. These facts show clearly that the growth of revenue was not the outcome of any *normal* expansion of the fiscal resources of the country but due to forced imposition of fresh taxes from time to time and to the disposal of the *puduval* lands at the disposal of the Government and to the accidental circumstances of abnormal increase of the value of timber. They further show the absolute want of recuperative power in the masses, for taxation after taxation had to be kept up and useful public works had to be suspended to maintain the financial equilibrium. Indian economists ordinarily regard the consumption of salt as an indication of the material condition of the people. Applying this test, where do we stand? The consumption of salt in 1087 was 9,82,371 maunds; but in 1096 it was only 9,50,074 maunds. The population in 1087 was 34 lakhs, whereas, according to the Census of 1096, it was 40 lakhs, an increase of over 16 per cent. I need hardly say that the consumption has not kept pace with the advance of population and shows no signs of development whatever. This illustrates in a painful manner the material condition of the people. The Financial Secretary by some manipulation of accounts occasionally exhibits to us a short-lived prosperity budget. It is too early to base any inference on income tax as it was imposed only two years ago. The growth, if there is any in it, is a forced one and is not due to the increased earning capacity of the people.

The customs revenue, no doubt, shows occasional signs of development and the balance of trade is in our favour. Nevertheless, it is not steady. The play of the uncertainties of the market and the disorganised condition of the trade cannot be overlooked. It is also to be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

remembered that tea and rubber industries are in the hands of a few foreign capitalists and if we exclude the value of these goods the balance in favour of Travancore is very little.

The growth of excise revenue shows only the increased activities of the department which have increased drunkenness in the land. This means increased misery and is the reverse of increasing prosperity. The policy enunciated by the Government in this House and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly is entirely different. It is sad to imagine that this wise policy has not been kept in view by the officers of the departments. It is seen from the *Census Report* that the output of home-grown paddy, in spite of the increase in the area brought under cultivation and the extension of irrigation facilities, has been going down chiefly on account of the deterioration of cattle due to the inability of the ryots to purchase them and also on account of their inability to purchase manures. Nearly 50 per cent. of the population live on tapioca or on some meagre diet. It is well known that the cultivation of tapioca causes greater exhaustion of the soil than any other crop. But in spite of these alarming facts, the level of taxation is kept up sufficiently high and no attempt is made to enquire into the defects of the present system of taxation and to find out a more desirable method. We occasionally hear whispers of a new survey and settlement. This is indeed heart-rending. These facts, so glaring and painful, immediately require earnest and careful consideration at the hands of the Government. These and similar facts lead to the conclusion that the economic condition of the people is steadily deteriorating. The soil is getting poorer and poorer every day. The financial position of the State is unstable. These facts demand the earnest and immediate attention of the Government. An enquiry into the economic condition of the people, which was being pressed on the attention of the Government, both in this House and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly for many years, can no longer be delayed. Upon the conclusion of that enquiry, a more scientific system of taxation and administration of finance should be introduced.

The administration of State treasuries requires the attention of the Government. As the matter in regard to the alleged defalcation in the Quilon District Treasury is *sub judice*, I do not propose to say anything more than this, *viz.*, that the defects of the existing system should be considered. The dual control now exercised over the District and sub-treasuries by the Dewan Peishkars and the Account Officer is open to various objections. Neither the verification of the cash balance nor the audit by the Account Office as is now done is sufficient to prevent fraud. If the defects are not in the system but due to the unsatisfactory working of it, Government should not hesitate to take vigorous measures to see that it is properly worked.

Another observation I have to make is that, in a small State like Travancore the financial resources of which are very limited and circumscribed by various factors, we have not only to maintain a financial equilibrium but to leave annually a small margin. The people

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

are now unable to bear any further direct taxation. We have therefore to look for revenue by making our reproductive investments more paying, by economic management of them and also by tapping other sources of revenue and adopting a policy of retrenchment. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has already referred to the necessity of the revision of the Interportal Convention of 1865 and of claiming our share of the import duty. Cochin who was a party to that convention was getting till recently only the amount fixed at the time of the convention as her share of the customs revenue. Since then the volume of trade and the customs revenue has increased considerably.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether Mr. Sankara Menon has calculated what would be the increase if the Interportal convention were revised?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): So far as I have been able to ascertain, the value of our imports has gone up considerably. I have not been able to get accurate figures.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai has mentioned the figures. You can draw inferences from those figures. That would enable you to calculate.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): At any rate, the amount received by Cochin as her share has increased considerably from what was fixed in the year 1865. It was only a lakh and odd in 1865.

PRESIDENT: Have you any authority for that statement? I have not been able to get it substantiated. I should like to know what your authority is, if you have any authority.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The Administration Report of Cochin itself refers to it.

PRESIDENT: Of which year?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): 1086 or 1087. From a lakh and odd it rose considerably high, though there appears to be some difference in the terms of the convention. It was left to Mr. Banerji when he was Dewan to re-open the question and to claim Cochin's due share. I am aware of the difference in the terms of the convention. May we hope that your advocacy in this matter will bear the same result as that of Mr. Banerji in Cochin?

Coming to the refund of the duty on tea, I do not find any justification for the claim of the British Government to a share in the duty on tea produced in and exported from this State. In this respect, Sir, I may also say that it is also the patriotic duty of all Travancore tea planters to see that the tea grown in this country is exported as far as possible only through Travancore ports so that the payment of any share of the duty on such goods may be avoided. The Government in their turn must provide the necessary facilities for shipping tea from Travancore ports.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Another chief article of export from Travancore is rubber. Next to coccanut and tea comes rubber. I cannot therefore understand the justification in exempting this article from duty. At the twelfth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, I represented to the Government the necessity of imposing duty on tea, rubber and other products and I thought I made out a very strong case at the time. But the Government were not even pleased to note my suggestions. But before a few months elapsed the Government of India imposed a duty on tea and our Government also thought that they were justified in imposing a similar duty here.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether it is his view that the rubber planters here are making an appreciable margin of profit?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The cocoanut planters also do not make much profit. I have got the figures in regard to cocoanut and rubber.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Is it his view that the rubber planters are making any profit?

PRESIDENT: That is not what he says. He only advocates a policy.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I ask him whether in the last two or three years the rubber planters have made any profit.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I am well aware that rubber has, of late, been rather hard hit. Cocoanut and all other industries have been hard hit since the commencement of the war.

PRESIDENT: In the case of tea, do you think that also has been hard hit?

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Cocoanut produce has not been affected. It has been paying very well indeed.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Tea has not suffered.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether any duty is anywhere being paid now on rubber?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): That was just what I was about to say. The Government of India did not impose any duty on rubber probably on account of the fact that very little rubber is produced in British India and that they could not expect any appreciable revenue from it. But we find that the Ceylon Government had imposed so far back as 1915 an export duty of 75 cents per 100 lbs. Therefore it seems to me, Sir, that there is no justification for exempting rubber from export duty.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether he really knows that the production and export of rubber have been restricted in almost all rubber-growing areas?

PRESIDENT: Not in India.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kārtikapalli*): I refer to rubber-growing areas generally.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I am aware of that. That does not affect my case. All those restrictions have been made in Ceylon where there is duty on rubber.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Is he aware of the fact that in Ceylon there is a production of 500 to 600 lbs. of rubber per acre while here the production is only 250 to 300 lbs. per acre?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): That does not affect the question at all. Here also they can make the yield greater. I never contended that the same tariff should be imposed here as in Ceylon.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): They cannot increase the yield, and the question whether a product is working at a profit or loss does not affect the principle?

PRESIDENT: That is his opinion. You cannot argue, Mr. Mackie. (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): The increased yield in one country does not in any way affect the fundamental principle of taxation.

The attention of the Government has been invited both in this House and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to the unsatisfactory working of the Travancore branch of the South Indian Railway. In spite of the gratifying statements given to us by Mr. George, it is still giving us considerable anxiety. Our capital liability is increasing as our sinking fund accumulates. We do not know whether we shall be able to pay off this liability unless we take steps to set the matter right. The development of our trade is considerably affected by the unsatisfactory working of this line as has been pointed out by Mr. Mackie and other speakers. The sale of Travancore timber has decreased on account of the increase of the freight and also on account of the fact that sufficient facilities are not afforded for the export of timber from the State to the Tinnevelly and Madura Districts. During the years 1086 to 1095, there was a good deal of timber trade between Travancore and the adjoining British districts and that has since been considerably reduced. Therefore, it seems to me that it is the duty of the Government to see that some arrangement is made by them in regard to the freight and also in regard to facilities for the export of Travancore products to the adjoining British districts.

With reference to retrenchment, I do not at all say that the Government are unmindful of effecting retrenchment. It was observed by the Dewan in his address to the nineteenth session of the Popular Assembly that retrenchment at any price is not sound financial policy and that there is a limit beyond which it will lead to undesirable results. No one disputes the truth or wisdom of that statement; but in my humble opinion sufficient attention is not given to ascertain correctly the limit

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

beyond which retrenchment cannot be made. Public opinion is that the State service is over-manned and is top heavy. In addition to the permanent sanctioned strength, we have in service a fairly large number of extras, supernumeraries and additional hands. These should be done away with and work should be exacted from the permanent staff. If they are unfit, they must be replaced by more efficient hands.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to time. It is already 25 minutes. Do you want more time?

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Yes, I want just five or six minutes.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): This leads to the consideration of recruitment to the service. No subject has been more insistently pressed before this Council and before the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly than the subject of recruitment to the public service. The complaints of nepotism and communal partiality are being brought to the notice of Government every year. It is impossible for Government to satisfy every applicant for service in the State. But the fact that these complaints are not without foundation is evident from the figures published in answer to the interpellations of some of the members. I beg to be permitted to make a suggestion in regard to this matter. The Government should appoint a selection board or boards for selecting persons for filling up vacancies each year in every branch of the service. The board should conduct a competitive examination and must select a panel of persons from whom appointments should be made, due regard being had to the various other considerations. A trial may be given to this or any other similar scheme. I have no doubt that it will be better than the present system.

Owing to the distress caused by the floods recently, it seems to me that Government will be justified also in suspending the time-scale increment allowed to officers of the various departments. The time has also come to stop the grants to the municipalities. They are given powers of taxation. Now certain municipalities impose taxes to meet their demands when the grants to them are stopped. I submit, there is no justification for not compelling every municipality to find its own resources.

The expenditure in regard to maintenance of T. B.s and *satrams*, on primary education and on *vaidyasalas*, within municipal limits should be reduced and these institutions must be handed over to the municipalities and they should be made to meet the expenditure thereon. The number of medical dispensaries should be reduced and a system of grant-in-aid to qualified medical practitioners should be introduced. The number of high-paid officers in the Medical Department should be reduced and honorary surgeons and physicians should be appointed in important hospitals.

Time does not allow me to elaborate these schemes. I suggest these for the consideration of the Government. If these measures are adopted, we may probably be able to tide over the present difficulties.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

There is one other point that I wish to refer to, *viz.*, the unsatisfactory working of the Canals and Ferries Regulation and the indifference of the controlling authorities in not framing rules under the Regulation, and in not enforcing them, which has been the cause of the loss of many precious lives recently. The report of the Redeemer Committee shows that there has been very little supervision by the controlling officers. I am sorry to observe that the final orders of Government on this report, so far as the officers responsible for the working of this Regulation are concerned, have not given any public satisfaction.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Sir, the revenues of a flourishing state must bear a reasonable and definite proportion to the wealth of its people. In our country there has been a rapid rise in its revenue. It will be seen from the budget placed before us that the State revenue has risen from Rs. 138 lakhs in 1087 to Rs. 195 lakhs in 1096 and to a little above Rs. 2 crores in 1099. But the Financial Secretary has not been able to give us hitherto figures to get at the total wealth of our country and the average income of the individual. In considering the question of taxing the people, a fairly accurate idea of what they are worth is necessary and it would be nothing short of oppression to tax the people beyond their means. In the general discussion of the budget for the last two years, the necessity of ascertaining the national wealth of the people and of conducting an economic survey of the state and collecting and publishing annually all kinds of statistics were pointed out. But I am sorry to state that the Financial Secretary has not uttered a word on this portion of the discussion. I do hope that he will be kind enough to avail himself of this opportunity at least to give his opinion on this point.

Before I pass on to the budget, Sir, I should like to make a reference to certain losses incurred by the State, and not contemplated in the budget. What I mean is the loss of the tax-payer's money sustained through sheer neglect of duty or wilful misappropriation on the part of certain officers of the State. We all know instances of officers issuing wrong cheques, encashing false cheques and bills and misappropriating public money on false accounts. This state of affairs, Sir, is indeed undesirable, if not deplorable. I ask, Sir, does it not form part of the legitimate duties of heads of departments as well as the inspecting officers to trace out such instances then and there? Have not the Government authorised or deputed inspecting officers to verify, check and affirm the correctness of the accounts kept up by the various departments of the State? Suppose the Head-master of an English High School collects Rs. 2,000 a month as fee money and remits to the treasury only Rs. 1,500; or a treasury officer by some manipulation of figures misappropriates money and valuables from the treasury; or again some officer collects more money than is actually due or less. When, by whom and where can such actions be found out? Are we not having instances of such things being found out only a long time after the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

occurrence and that in some cases by mere chance? How can this neglect of duty on the part of the inspecting officers or the departmental heads be accounted for? Who is responsible for the losses if they are irrecoverable? These are questions, Sir, which, I believe have to be answered by the Financial Secretary or any other responsible member on the other side of the House.

Though the Financial Secretary was at first able to prepare, as usual, a surplus budget for 1100, he was soon forced by circumstances beyond his control to convert the same into a deficit budget before its actual presentation before this House. The recent floods, the like of which was never before witnessed in Travancore, have by spreading desolation and distress to the people upset all calculations in the budget. It is consoling to see that provision has been made as far as possible to alleviate the distress of the people, by placing Rs. 43,000 at the disposal of the revenue officers and Municipal Presidents for gratuitous relief, by increasing the grant to the P. W. D. for the restoration of damaged communications, etc., and by raising the allotment for loans for the relief of the agricultural population. But, in consideration of the appalling magnitude of the havoc caused by the floods, I am afraid, Sir, that unless the Central Floods Relief Committee rise equal to the occasion and form branch committees in different parts of the state to do vigorous work for relieving the poor, the help rendered by the Government may be found to be insufficient. It is, however, gratifying that the Financial Secretary has promised more funds for the purpose, if found necessary during the course of the year.

The budget estimate of taxes on income for the year 1098 was Rs. 4,75,000, while the actual collection for the year was Rs. 5,01,865. In 1099 the estimate was Rs. 5 lakhs which was subsequently revised as Rs. 5,10,000. The amount to be collected during the year 1100 is Rs. 5½ lakhs. As the estimate under this head increases every year one would naturally suppose that the income of the tax-payer is also increasing proportionately. But I know the state of affairs to be quite different. Instances are not rare of revenue officers or income tax collectors imposing income-tax on persons whose annual income is below the minimum fixed, and on the other hand of underrating the income of persons who actually earn much more. As the decision of these officers is rather arbitrary and is in many cases based on what they call confidential enquiry, the poor assessees suffer a great deal. Many representations have been made both in this House and the S. M. P. Assembly regarding this matter. Mr. Subba Aiyar promised two years ago a revision of the Regulation on the lines of the British Indian Act. I would now remind him of his promise and request him to do the needful without further delay.

The budget estimates under sale proceeds of Government lands for 1097 was Rs. 4,78,600 while the actual amount collected was only Rs. 3,71,205—*i. e.*, less by over a lakh. In 1098 the figures were Rs. 5,48,300 and Rs. 4,00,115 respectively, *i. e.*, the collection was

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

less by about Rs. 1½ lakhs. Similarly in 1099 it appears that there would be a fall in the revenue by half a lakh. The income estimated for the year 1100 is Rs. 4½ lakhs and as in the previous years here also a fall in the revenue is naturally to be expected. This steady fall in the revenue, Sir, I must repeat, is due to the hard Puduval Rules recently brought into existence. Therefore, in the interest of both the Government and the people, I do once again emphatically point out that, unless the *puduval* rules are so modified as to fix the rate of *tharavila* according to the quality of the land, the Government and the people cannot emerge out of this difficulty.

In this connection I find it absolutely necessary, Sir, to refer to the rules regarding the registry of town lands and the consequent hardships caused to the people who go in for such lands. A notification was recently published by the Government declaring the lands in 17 non-municipal stations also as town lands under Rule 31 of the Revised Puduval Rules. Thus, the extent of town lands coming under the operation of these rules has been considerably increased. The tax now imposed on town lands is out of all proportion to the annual income obtainable therefrom. The principle according to which this tax is calculated does not suit the conditions of Travancore. The annual tax on town lands is fixed by dividing three-fourths of their market value by 25. Thus if the market value of a piece of land be Rs. 100 the tax to be paid thereon is Rs. 3. This would mean that 3 per cent. of the amount invested on town lands is required for the payment of the annual tax. The income that the land-owner may get from his investment does not generally exceed 4 per cent. So, after paying the tax he gets only a net income of 1 per cent. In the case of dry lands in Kottarakara and other taluks, the average income per acre is often less than Rs. 7 while according to the rule the minimum tax to be paid is Rs. 7 chs. 4 per acre. Again it has to be pointed out that the maximum tax on town lands fixed under the rules is Rs. 571-12 chs. per acre. This, I submit, is an enormous tax which no town lands in Travancore can ever bear.

Another source of revenue that has recently sprung up is also worthy of mention. That is what is called fees on demand notices for land tax. Till the end of 1098, the number of such notices issued was comparatively small and the fees collected negligibly low. But this year the number has become alarmingly great. With a view to get at the correct figures I asked the Government by an interpellation during the last session of the Council for information regarding the total number of demand notices issued this year and the amount collected as fees thereon, but no answer was given. This time also I gave notice of the same question which being late by a day was not admitted. In Medam last I happened to see some notices issued from certain taluks bearing serial numbers ranging between 12,000 and 23,000! On a modest calculation, it may not be far wrong to suppose that about a lakh of rupees has been collected this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

year as fees on demand notices. If this system is allowed to continue, Sir, it will be a regular drain on the purses of the poor people. From very early times the *pakuthi* officers used to go themselves to the tax-payers for collecting the revenue. But at present by remaining idle in their offices and issuing demand notices they are able to shirk their responsibility in collecting the revenue.

Another regrettable feature in the collection of such fees is that the taluk authorities issue separate demand notices to the same person who has to pay tax as per different *pattas* in the same *pakuthi*. Seeing also Sir, that a person holds only one *Tandaper* for all the properties included in different *pattas*, I think it will be fairer and more reasonable to issue only one notice in such cases. I hope Mr. Robinson will issue favourable orders regarding this matter.

For the past many years, the minor irrigation works of the State have been lying almost neglected. This will be evident from the budget allotment for such works for the previous years. Though for 1099 a little above a lakh of rupees was allotted, I am not in a position to know where and how the money was spent. I can only say, that nothing was spent in my taluk and in some of the neighbouring taluks. The figure given in the next year's budget is also not encouraging.

I need hardly point out that the maintenance and improvement of all irrigation works of the State is a matter which should engross the serious care and attention of the Government. I believe no one will disagree with me when I say that the present condition of such works is far from satisfactory. The failure of crops, consequent upon the absence of irrigation facilities in the country, is well-known. As one member seems to have put it in this Council on a former occasion, next to the expenditure in the Civil List and the subsidy to the British Government, the most important item of public expenditure should be "irrigation works." I am of opinion that all the taluks of the state should be taken up simultaneously and some work or other done in each taluk. The present method of allotting some money for irrigation and spending the whole of it in one or two taluks only, does not produce any real benefit to the people at large.

The unworkable nature of the Irrigation Regulation has already been brought to the notice of the Government through this Council and as such I do not want to repeat the same. All that I propose now is that larger sums should be allotted annually for irrigation, care being taken that all the taluks of the State get their share in the distribution of funds. The Irrigation Regulation should be so modified or amended as to enable some work being done in all the taluks every year. Irrigation boards may be constituted in all taluks to draw up schemes for improving irrigation facilities, due regard being given to the urgency of the situation in each case. By such an arrangement the funds allotted by the Government for works of irrigation would properly be utilised.

The budget allotment on education for 1100 is found to be Rs. 38,59,200 as against Rs. 36,07,900 for 1099. This shows an increase

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

of Rs. 2,51,300. This increase, I believe, is partly due to the additional expenditure involved in the bifurcation of H. H. the Maha Raja's College. With the bifurcation of the college people hoped that the long-standing grievance in respect of college admission would be redressed. But subsequent events show that the reform has not come up to their expectations. Admission is still denied to many students of Travancore. Sir, in view of the fact that large sums of money have been spent by the people towards English education in the shape of endowments, buildings and furniture, it is really painful that they should be compelled to send their children outside the State for collegiate education. In the present age when the humanities are being slowly brushed aside by the sciences, it is rather a retrograde step to ask a student to give up his science studies. Further the English School Department does not hold out any hopes to the History and the Malayalam graduates in the matter of appointments. I therefore urge upon the Government the necessity of making suitable adjustments so as to admit a larger number of students into the College of Science.

In this connection, a word about the management and control of the departmental schools of the State will not, I believe, be out of place. In his reply communicated to the president of the public meeting held at Kottarakara regarding certain complaints against Mr. Dharmaraja Aiyar, the Head-master of the local English High school, Mr. Hodgson, the ex-Director of Public Instruction said: "As I am responsible to the Government for the management of the departmental schools of the State, you should address your representations regarding them to the Chief Secretary to Government." The propriety of this statement, Sir, is something I cannot understand. Though Mr. Hodgson said like that to the people of Kottarakara, their thanks are due to you, Sir, for having redressed their grievances. In regard to Mr. Hodgson's reply I need only say that the Director or any other officer of the State is always responsible to the people also.

Sir, the appointments in recent years of persons to the posts of Head-masters and the recruitment of teachers in English Schools have become the subject of very strong comment and criticism. Something is certainly wrong somewhere. Time there was when English education in Travancore grew under the fostering care and able guidance of eminent educationists. The names of Messrs. P. Aiyappan Pillai, K. Raghunatha Aiyar, S. Srinivasa Aiyar, C. Krishna Pillai, S. Padmanabha Aiyar, R. Vasudeva Rao, K. Paramu Pillai, R. Easwara Pillai, C. M. Hessing and M. Rama Varman Tampan will ever remain in the minds of Travancoreans. The striking personality and strong morals, the stern discipline and parental love towards students, which characterised these gentlemen, are qualities very rarely found in many of the their successors of to-day. In my opinion, it should be the policy of the Government to select the best available men as Head-masters of High

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

schools—men who besides being good teachers could smile with children in their joys and feel with them in their griefs. (*Mr. A. Hoogewerf*: *Hear, hear.*) The recruitment of assistant teachers is also, a no less important matter. No steady principle appears to have been followed here. The vernacular branch of the Education Department is also not free from complaints regarding appointments and transfers. It is earnestly hoped that Mr. Stephenson, the new Director of Public Instruction, will carefully steer his department clear of the numerous shoals and sand banks that lie concealed in its course.

The statistics of the appropriation accounts Sir, show that from 1093 to 1098, *i. e.*, within six years, the gross revenue of the State has increassd by Rs. 38,85,077, while the expenditure on salaries, travelling allowances and office contingencies has disproportionately increased by Rs. 25½ lakhs. Other expenditure on items of public utility like Public Works, Educational grants, etc., has increased only by Rs. 11½ lakhs. These figures indicate that further retrenchment on salaries, contingencies, etc., has become an absolute necessity. The abolition of certain superfluous appointments such as Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Inspectors of the Excise Department, Assistant Superintendents of the Police Department, Assistant Tahsildars of the Land Revenue Department and Personal Assistants to the heads of various departments, can be effected with advantage and without impairing the efficiency of the administration. Similarly, the abolition of the additional courts and benches of the Judical Department, a re-arrangement and redistribution of officers in the superior grade of the Land Revenue Department by eliminating either the Dewan Peishkars or the Division Assistants and by appointment of First Class Magistrates for three or four taluks together, with appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of Stationary Magistrates, are also matters which require the earnest and the earliest attention of the Government.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, on behalf of the people of Agastisvaram taluk, I assure you, Sir, that we fully sympathise with our brethren in North and Central Travancore in their sufferings and sorrows.

We are sincerely grateful to our Maha Raja, the Dewan, and other official and non-official gentlemen who have afforded relief to the distressed in various ways.

We in the South are also collecting rice and money for the relief of our brethren in distress and I sincerely hope that, with the liberal help and healthy co-operation of the people and the Government, adequate timely relief will be afforded to the helpless and the needy.

So far as the Land Revenue Department is concerned, the time has come for examining the question of amalgamation and redistribution of taluks. It is now two years since the Revenue-Devaswom separation took place. The Land Revenue Commissioner will be able to say whether, with the relief afforded to the Land Revenue Department, the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Paul V. Daniel.]

Tahsildars may take up the administration of some more areas under them. Some attempt, I think, should be made in that direction.

I had occasion to ascertain the number of non-caste Hindus and non-Hindus entertained in the Revenue Department by means of an interpellation, and I hope the increase hereafter of the unrepresented will be steady and encouraging.

Coming to administration of justice, the tendency that has now become prevalent has to be discouraged as far as possible. Whenever a temporary court is sanctioned, the attempt is to continue it or find out work for it, so much so that, at the end of every year, the work of the High Court has probably come to be to find out a place or berth for the location of a temporary court somewhere, lest it should be disbanded as superfluous. As a rule, temporary appointments are never abolished. The attempt has been more often to find facts and figures to justify the retention of the *personnel* in the temporary grade by finding new stations for them. Such a tendency ought not to be allowed to go on.

As regards criminal justice, some of the non-official members have been representing for the last two years that a percentage of the magistracy should be recruited from the Bar, provided the selected candidates satisfy all the necessary conditions and possess the required qualifications. The suggestion was the subject matter of a resolution tabled for discussion both at the last Council and this Council. So far as Government are concerned, I hope, the reasoning given will convince them. It is open to the Government to give effect to the suggestion in the resolution if they are so inclined instead of waiting for a full-dress debate on a resolution on which opinion must be more or less unanimous. The resolution was passed unanimously at all the annual vakils' conferences. It is seen from the reviews of the High Court on the returns of criminal courts during some quarters, that they are not satisfied with the work there. The only alternative as suggested by the press in the country is to alter the system of recruitment to the subordinate magistracy.

It has been a practice to suggest that the Maramat Department may be placed under a Sub-Engineer or an Assistant Engineer and the Chief Engineer may be asked to supervise the same. Whatever may have been the exigencies of service which necessitated the creation of the Maramat Engineership, the experiment may be tried for a year or two. If one engineership is abolished in P. W. D. and a Maramat Engineership is created, I fail to see where the retrenchment referred to comes in. The retrenchment, wherever and whenever made, should not be apparent but real. Similarly, the experiment is worth trying to have a Sub-Engineer or an Assistant Engineer at the Workshops. It will be admitted that there are many honest officers among us, who can see that no corruption creeps in. I am aware that it is an important institution where a responsible officer should be stationed. The question is whether a Sub-Division Officer will not rise equal to the occasion an

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

feel the responsibility especially when he is next door to the watchful and vigilant Chief Engineer who can see things going on in the Workshops. I do not say that he can always inspect the Workshops and Stores. But I feel confident that his stay there will have much to do with the management and working of the institution.

I am thankful to the Government for increasing the annual grant to libraries and reading rooms to Rs. 150. This is no doubt an improvement on the old state of affairs, but it is not of a sufficiently far-reaching character. According to the new rules of affiliation, a sum of Rs. 36 will have to be paid every year from the mofussil libraries to the Trivandrum Public Library. If this affiliation is effected, it means practically that the new maximum grant actually at the disposal of any library will be only Rs. 114, the old grant being Rs. 100. In many deserving cases the maximum grant has not been sanctioned, as for instance the Nagercoil Club Library and Reading Room. I beg to suggest that the amount under grants to libraries and reading rooms should be increased.

The amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes must always be a matter of paramount concern to a civilised Government. I must state that neither the registry of house-sites in the names of the depressed classes, nor the system of sinking wells and opening approach roads for them has been satisfactory. I do not know if the Sambavar Elevation Committee, as at present constituted, has gone a great way to solve the whole question. It must be more comprehensive and should meet oftener. I think some persons who are not Sambavars but who are really interested in the matter should also be nominated to the said Committee. They must meet regularly, understand all wants, hold inspections and suggest remedies and make suitable recommendations to Government.

I should like to say a word about the local allowances given to some officers at Trivandrum who happen to be members of the head offices of some departments. If this local allowance is something like the presidency allowance given in Madras, then all officers in Trivandrum who are of the same grade as their colleagues in the mofussil, namely, Munsiffs, Magistrates, teachers, Sub-Registrars, etc., must get this substitute for presidency allowance. If it is something granted as a compensation for travelling allowance, to which they would be entitled if they were in the executive line, then I desire to point out that travelling allowance is given to an officer to cover the actual expenses incurred by him in travelling in the interests of the public service. It is a fundamental principle that such allowance is not to be a source of profit, so that there can be no compensation when there can be no profit according to the rules. From the *Service Regulations* it is found that a local allowance is given to an officer in addition to pay for duties which do not belong properly to his office or in consideration of exceptional local circumstances. If the Government think that it is on the former ground that these allowances are given, there is not much difference either. I can understand where local allowance is given to the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Paul V. Daniel.]

Assistant Professor of Physics for his duties in the Observatory which do not form part of his work or in the case of the Director of Registration doing the duties of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies or where a Judge of the High Court is the Principal of the Law College or where a Professor of History or English does the duties of the Secretary to the Public Library or the Warden of a Hostel. I do not know whether such a distinction would apply in the cases which I have referred to at the beginning. I leave it to the Government to make their position clear and make a statement as to the reasons for sanctioning such local allowances.

Coming to the question of travelling allowance, a word has to be said. Government must invite the attention of heads of departments to the fact that hasty marches are prohibited and must be discountenanced so far as they and their subordinates are concerned. The records sent in that connection must be carefully scrutinised by the Government and the other countersigning authorities. The rule that travelling allowance should not be a matter of profit should not be allowed to be a dead letter but a living and working principle of administration. Officers must be told that, for persons whose presence is not necessary and whose department has not even a remote connection with the work in question, the Suchindram *Utsavam* or the *Ashtami* at Vaikam should not ordinarily form occasions for inspection. Similarly officers should not one fine morning think of a circuit, run up to the Cape or Shencottah and return the same evening or the next morning. I do admit that occasions may arise for such sudden circuits as, for instance, the opportune visits of the Chief Engineer and the Land Revenue Commissioner and others to the areas affected by floods. I am sincerely grateful for the same. But they are exceptional instances. As a rule, officers, when they make tours, must, as far as possible, arrange them in such a way as not to make it a hasty drive or an incomplete circuit. A single routine item should not take an officer from Trivandrum to the north or south for a day to facilitate his return the next morning. If they are careful in arranging a programme to hear the people and receive representations and make their tours complete so far as the various purposes are concerned, it would result in much saving to the Government. I do not for a moment mean that, on an emergent occasion like the floods or a riot, they must not stir out of their headquarters. My request is that some attention be devoted to the matter in the interest of economy.

During the years, 1085 to 1090, I believe, a variety of circumstances operated to place at the disposal of the Government large revenues. The sale of tank-beds, forest coupes, the reclamation of portions of the Vembanad lake, the assignment of *puduvals*—all these brought huge sums into the coffers of the State. But the situation has to be faced that the increased salaries and establishments continue to be stationary and recurring while the items which brought large revenues

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

cannot be expected to be so recurring for years to come. I may also state that the unexpected doubling of the salt duty to some extent contributed to ease the situation, while the effects of the temperance movement have not yet been felt in respect of excise revenue. Our *puduvals* and forests cannot give us the same revenue every year. There must come a time when our land acquisition charges have to be met while the land at our disposal may not be extensive.

This is the last budget debate, so far as this Council, as at present constituted, is concerned, and I hope the Government will be pleased to give a statement showing clearly the non-recurring items of revenue during the last fifteen years and the recurring increase in salaries and establishments during these years. There has been increased taxation all these years, the increase in the salt duty and the school fees, the levy of income tax and of all taxes under the Municipal Regulation, the increase of fees under registration and anchal, of copying fees, process fees, the imposition of court fees for various purposes under Regulations and Rules, of irrigation cess and of new tolls numerous in number—a development of such a situation is so disquieting and extraordinary that a close scrutiny, in my humble opinion, is necessary. I request the Government to undertake such an examination and build the superstructure of the country's expenditure on the foundation of certain recurring revenue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know what is meant by 'depressed classes'—whether those who have no property or those who are backward in education?

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): I refer mainly to the South Travancore Sambavars.

The Council adjourned at 4-55 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Monday.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly